Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you plan to take your children trick-or-treating on Halloween night?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

30 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

GOP Doubts

Doubts about John McCain's chances for the presidency is growing louder among fellow Republicans.

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Strong Quake

A Pakistani official says at least 135 people have died in an earthquake in a southwestern province.

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NMC says accreditation hinges on budget. **PAGE 2**

Palauans in NMI, Guam, Hawaii to vote on Saturday. **PAGE 6**

$883,520 remains with GOB–Bellas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Garment Oversight Board, which is closing tomorrow, still has in its possession $883,520.11 in class lawsuit settlement funds.

In an interim accounting report filed Tuesday at the U.S. District Court, GOB chair Timothy H. Bellas disclosed that, as of September 2008, the board still has $777,495.94 in undistributed residual settlement funds.

The GOB, according to Bellas, has $86,930.17 in operational funds in its investment account with Bank of Hawaii, to which an additional $19,094 was wire transferred by claims administrator Gilardi & Co. on Oct. 10, 2008, for a total of approximately $106,024.17.

See GOB on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A bus stop across PTI along Middle Road is spray-painted with the word "xenocide."

Graffiti hits newly painted bus stops

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Many newly repainted bus stops on Saipan have been spray-painted with the word "xenocide" and the Department of Public Safety is now looking into the ones responsible for the vandalism.

Saipan Tribune observed that among the bus stops spray-painted with the word were ones near the Northern Marianas College and Joeten Housing, and several others along Middle Road—across PTI, near Coca-Cola, near DHL, and across Family Outlet.

See GRAFFITI on Page 4

'Seize DPL funds, property'

To satisfy $262,714 court judgment to landowner

> *The failure of the Legislature to fulfill its constitutional mandate does not, cannot, and will not prevent the court from taking all necessary steps to ensure that its judgments are enforceable.*
>
> —U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has ordered the U.S. Marshal to seize the Department of Public Lands' funds held in bank accounts, goods, and any other property to satisfy a total of $262,714.60 in judgment, costs, and interest to a landowner.

See SEIZE on Page 4

THIS IS HOW WE BRUSH OUR TEETH KRISTI EATON

Lori Serna, a dental hygienist at SDA Dental Clinic, teaches San Vicente Elementary fourth-grader Lorenza Peñalosa proper brushing techniques. ***See story on Page 6***.

Camacho

Guam governor opposes monument plan

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Gov. Felix Camacho of Guam is advising a key Bush administration official against the White House's proposal to preserve a vast swath of ocean water in the Mariana Islands as a national marine monument, saying the effort requires more time and more study.

Camacho, in an Oct. 27 letter to White House Council on Environmental Quality chief James Connaughton, says he opposes "a sudden declaration of a monument or conservation status" in the Marianas and a review of the cultural and economic consequences of the proposal is warranted before

See GUAM on Page 4

Local

NMC says accreditation hinges on budget

USSP Bar
SPOOKY FRIDAY BUDDY NIGHT
Come In w/ Your GUY or GHOUL Friends
& Get FIRST DRINK @ 50% Off (Bud Family Beers)
Starts: 7pm to Closing
Friday, October 31, 2008
Wear Halloween Costume & Win Cool Bud Gears

NMC president Carmen Fernandez and other college officials appear before the Legislature on Wednesday.

AGNES E. DONATO

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College says it is convinced it will have its accreditation restored by January unless lawmakers cut funding to the college.

NMC president Carmen Fernandez, in a meeting with the Legislature yesterday, urged attending members of the Senate and House of Representatives to at least sustain the college's budget at its fiscal year 2008 level.

"We're pretty confident [we will have our accreditation reaffirmed]. The work that the accrediting commission required of NMC would have taken years and years to do. We did it inside of a year's time," she said.

She added, "What would really harm us is a budget cut. 'Fiscal fragility'—the fact that the college relies too much on legislative appropriation for funding—is a major concern for the commissioners. They are concerned that the CNMI can't really afford to provide higher education [to its people]. A full budget for NMC is the clearest indication of the Legislature's support for the college."

NMC got a total budget of $6.2 million in the 2008 fiscal year. This includes $5.2 million from the general fund, and $1 million from nonresident workers fees, which is earmarked for NMC's vocational programs.

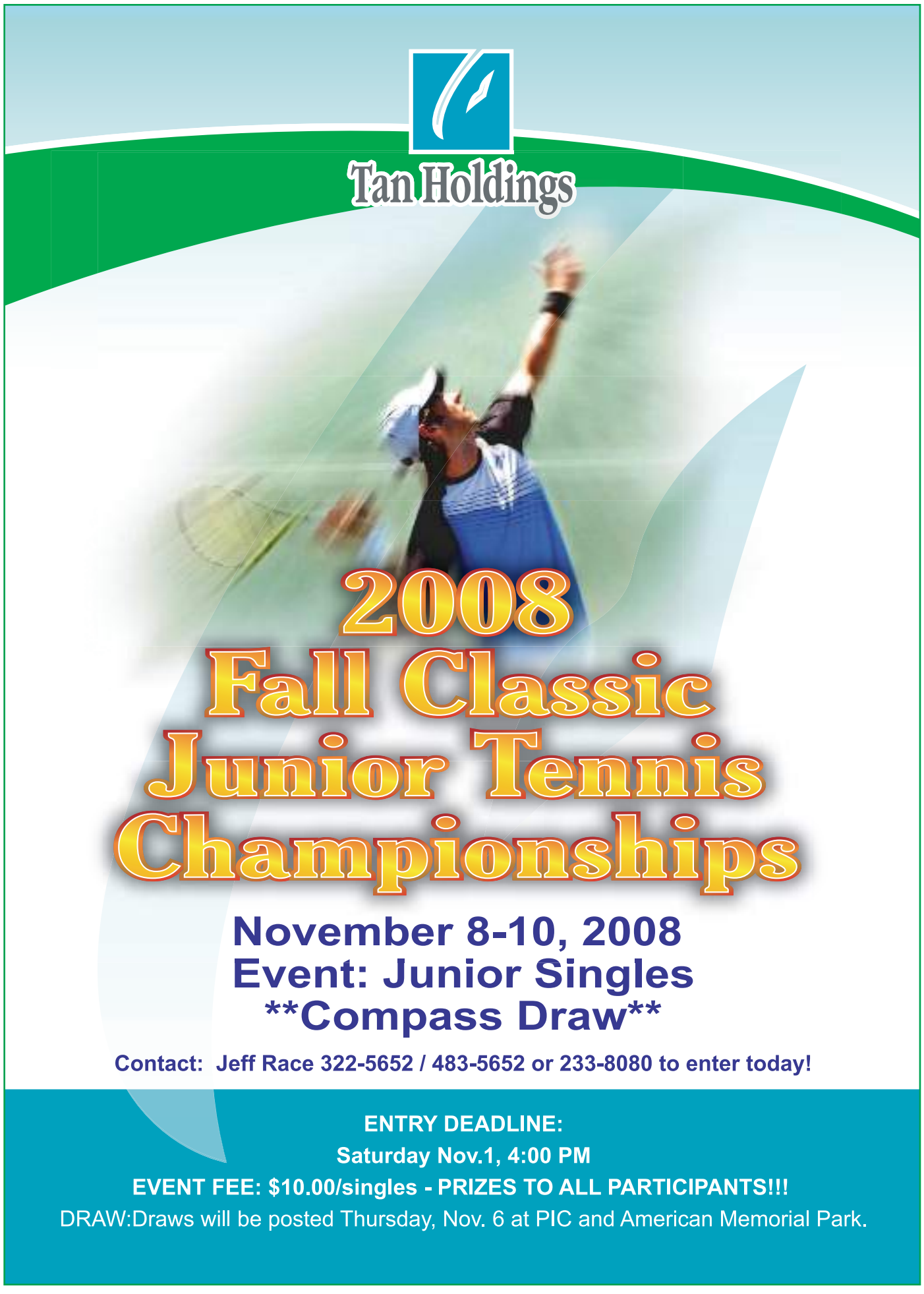
The House-approved version of the FY2009 budget kept NMC's funding intact. However, the Senate zeroed out the account for the apprenticeship programs. The committee report, which accompanied the Senate's budget version, did not explain why the program was cut, except to save money.

Fernandez said that, if approved, the Senate's budget version would effectively scrap NMC's nursing, education, and business management programs—the core of NMC's efforts to help build a local workforce.

Earlier this year, the Western Association of Schools and College's Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges ordered NMC to provide reasons—or "show cause"—why the college's accreditation should not be terminated. The show cause order followed NMC's many years of non-compliance with accreditation standards.

Yesterday, Fernandez reported to the Legislature that NMC had submitted all documents needed to show how the college had complied with the WASC-ACCJC's recommendations. She said the college is now preparing for a visit by the commission's officials, set for Nov. 3-5, 2008. Following the visit, the college will prepare a supplemental report to strengthen or update the report submitted on Oct. 15.

On. Jan. 7, 2009, the commissioners will have a meeting, where they will decide based on the recommendation of the visiting team, whether to reaffirm or terminate NMC's accreditation.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2008
Fall Classic
Junior Tennis
Championships
November 8-10, 2008
Event: Junior Singles
Compass Draw
Contact: Jeff Race 322-5652 / 483-5652 or 233-8080 to enter today!
ENTRY DEADLINE:
Saturday Nov.1, 4:00 PM
EVENT FEE: $10.00/singles - PRIZES TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!!!
DRAW:Draws will be posted Thursday, Nov. 6 at PIC and American Memorial Park.

A step for breast cancer awareness

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of people marched down Beach Road carrying candles yesterday, hoping to raise awareness about breast cancer.

The candlelight vigil walk is in conjunction with October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"This is what it is doing. It's raising awareness," said Lynn Tenorio, deputy secretary for Public Health. "It's incredible the amount of people here. The fact that people are willing to do this on a Wednesday night, to give up their time, indicates the amount of support."

Maggie Camacho, a four-year breast cancer survivor, said educating the public about prevention is key.

"It's an awareness program to let the public know, to educate them in the knowledge of prevention of cancer," she said, adding that early screening is important.

Camacho discovered her cancer during her regular mammogram check-up. She underwent chemotherapy and radiation.

The cancer diagnosis not only affected her, but her family as well.

"We had to change our lifestyle and re-evaluate our values in life," she said. "Family support is really important, even community support is important."

The candlelight walk is a perfect example of the community support, she added.

Students from schools, including Kagman Elementary and Grace Christian Academy, were on hand to show their support, and various health agencies set up exhibits at Oleai Beach Pavilion with information about breast cancer and other health-related issues.

Despite plunge in oil prices, gas prices in CNMI still high

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Despite crude oil trading at its lowest price in more than a year, gas prices on Saipan remain at more than $4 a gallon for regular unleaded.

Light sweet crude oil was trading at $62.23 on the New York Mercantile Exchange yesterday, the lowest closing price since May 15, 2007. Shell and Mobil on island are currently selling self-serve regular unleaded at $4.02 a gallon—58 cents more than they were selling it in June 2007, when crude oil was trading at a similar price.

In October 2007, when crude oil was trading at approximately $88, Shell and Mobil stations on island were selling self-service regular unleaded for $3.61 a gallon.

Crude oil was trading at an all time high of $147.27 per barrel in July. At that time, Shell and Mobil stations on island were selling regular unleaded for $5.05 per gallon.

Jeff Boyer, retail area manager for Shell, said oil prices have dropped faster than Shell has been able to recover their costs.

"There's a bit of a balancing act," he said, adding that prices will come down eventually, although he said he could not give a timetable.

"We monitor the market from time to time," he said. "If the market dictates, we move. It may be at any given time, but I can't give any specific time."

An official from Mobil did not respond to questions by press time yesterday.

Meanwhile, a report released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration on Monday shows the average price for regular unleaded in the U.S. mainland is $2.656 per gallon—a decrease of 21 cents from the same time last year.

The Gulf Coast has the cheapest average at $2.46 per gallon while the West Coast is the most expensive at $3.05 per gallon for regular unleaded.

Boyer said the CNMI couldn't be compared to the U.S. mainland because the Commonwealth falls within the Asia-Pacific market.

"So unfortunately, what you see on the U.S. does not have any affect on what goes in our side of the world," he said.

Tudela: Scrap cuts in govt work hours

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

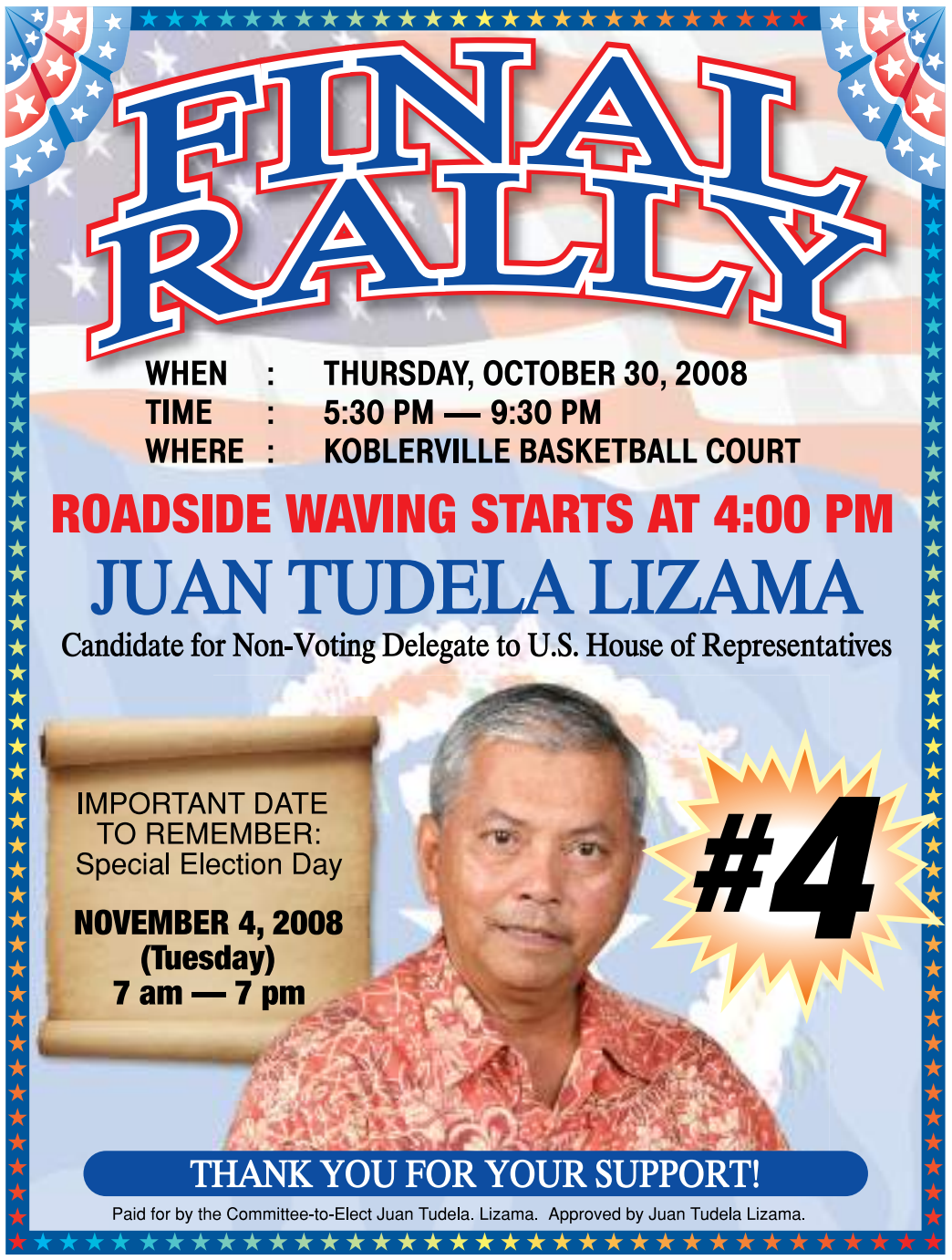
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela has asked lawmakers to reject the Senate's proposal to implement unpaid legal holidays and austerity Fridays as means to cut government spending.

Tudela, in a letter to House Ways and Means Committee chair Victor Hocog, said that both cost-cutting measures have a direct impact on the quality of service provided to the community, as well as to the employees' day-to-day livelihood.

"As everyone knows, reduction of work hours means reduction of service to our community," he said. "[And] if the unpaid and austerity holidays are implemented… you are taking food off the table of a family that is already coping with financial hardship."

Tudela also said that agencies should be able to operate on their funding level without subjecting the employees to pay cuts. "We strongly believe that with the proposed funding level for each agency, the expenditure authorities, as well as the program managers, can find ways to live within their means and ensure that their programs are continued and not hampered in any way," he said.

The House of Representatives has rejected the Senate-passed version of the fiscal year 2009 budget. A conference committee made up of Senate and House members has been formed to reconcile the differences between both houses.


FINAL RALLY
WHEN : THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2008
TIME : 5:30 PM — 9:30 PM
WHERE : KOBLERVILLE BASKETBALL COURT
ROADSIDE WAVING STARTS AT 4:00 PM
JUAN TUDELA LIZAMA
Candidate for Non-Voting Delegate to U.S. House of Representatives
IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER:
Special Election Day
NOVEMBER 4, 2008
(Tuesday)
7 am — 7 pm
#4
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
Paid for by the Committee-to-Elect Juan Tudela. Lizama. Approved by Juan Tudela Lizama.

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Halloween Events 2008
Halloween Night Dinner Buffet
@ fresko Restaurant
6:00pm - 9:00pm, Fri. 10/31/08
$12.00 Adult & $8.00 Child
*no discount applicable
Kiddie Full Costume Contest
(Ages: 4 - 11 years old only)
Kids must be in FULL Halloween costume to win prizes
CREEPY HOUR
Bottomless BEERS and Sodas
@ PauPau Bar
8:00pm - 10:30pm, Fri. 10/31/08
$15.00 per person admission fee
*21 years old & above (I.D, required)
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Free Raffle Ticket to win great prizes
Free chasers
Exciting Music by DJ Keith
HALLOWEEN WEEKEND ROOM PROMOTION
Fri. Oct. 31, 2008 - Sun. Nov. 02, 2008
$77.00/nite for 2
Inclusive of room tax & breakfast for 2
Stop by our Front Desk in your Halloween Costume on Friday 10/31/08 no later than 9pm and avail of our
$55.00/nite for 2 Room Only
*Conditions may apply. Please call 670-322-3311
Halloween Activities
Pumpkin Carving Demonstration
10/27/08-10/31/08 9:00am-12:00pm @ Lobby
Face Painting
10/31/08 4:00pm-7:00pm @ Lobby
Trick or Treat
10/31/08 6:00pm~
For more information, please call 670-322-3311

Tan Holdings Corp. president Jerry Tan cuts the ribbon on one of the weight machines. NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Tan Holdings opens gym for employees

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tan Holdings Corp. employees were on hand yesterday at the company's grand opening of their new fitness center.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan said the opening of Fit Club is part of the company's focus on employee health.

"Health is priceless," he said. "I know that many employees enjoy working out, but on island there are very limited facilities."

The location of Fit Club within the CIC Building makes it very accessible to Tan Holdings employees, he said, since it is centrally located on the island.

The gym includes a treadmill, an elliptical machine, a stationary bicycle, a couple of weight machines, benches for ab workouts, and free weights. It is also equipped with a flat-screen TV.

"I hope employees will take advantage of this facility," Tan said.

Earlier this year the company made their workplaces smoke free after *Saipan Tribune* publisher John "JP" Pangelinan passed away in February, following a long bout with lung cancer.

The fitness center is a continuation of that focus on health, Tan said.

Ivan Quichocho, the project manager for Fit Club, said the fitness center caters to a wide range of exercisers—from beginners to serious bodybuilders.

"It's the only one on island where employees can work out," he said.

Other companies give employees gym memberships but none have their own gym, he said.

Several Tan Holdings employees who are experienced exercisers will volunteer their time to show others proper work out techniques, Quichocho said.

The gym is open seven days a week from 6am to 10pm and is free for Tan Holdings employees.

Employees who want to work out are issued proximity cards that will grant them access to the facility.

Emergency declaration for Anatahan extended again

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has extended anew the emergency declaration designating the island of Anatahan as unsafe for human habitation due to volcanic activity.

In issuing the emergency extension on Monday, Fitial restricted all travel to Anatahan with the exception of scientific expeditions.

The emergency extension will remain in effect for 30 days.

The CNMI government first issued the emergency declaration for Anatahan on May 13, 2003 and has been extending it since.

The governor said the volcanic activity and seismic phenomena that prompted the issuance of the declaration continues to exist on Anatahan.

Under the declaration, the government will continue enforcing the off-limits zone—from 30 nautical miles to 10 nautical miles—around Anatahan Island.

Anatahan is a small volcanic island 120 km north of Saipan. The first historic eruption was reported in May 2003. In April 2004, the volcano woke up again after a few months of slumber. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

GRAFITTI

From Page 1

The writing style is noticeably similar, which indicates that possibly only one person is behind the spray painting.

A government employee told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that DPS should look into the matter seriously considering that xenocide means the killing of foreigners.

"It is very alarming because there's not only one bus stop spray-painted with xenocide but many," the employee said. "It's scary."

A Wikipedia entry says that Xenocide is a science fiction neologism that simply means an act of genocide directed toward aliens.

Genocide refers to deliberate destruction in whole or in part of an ethnic, racial, religions, or national group.

Xenocide is also an online game—anything from attacking people to stealing money to playing the casino, to chatting with friends.

Asked for comment, DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that police are investigating this case seriously, just like any other crimes.

"This type of behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," Ogumoro said.

She encouraged the community to help DPS in catching the person or persons behind the spray-painting of bus stops.

"When they report to the police, we ask that they get a good description of the suspect or suspects as well as the vehicle involved so it can help with future prosecutions," Ogumoro said.

It was the Department of Corrections and first lady Josie Fitial who teamed up with the beautification project at bus stops right before the opening of classes. DOC used eight to 10 inmates in sprucing up the bus stops.

GUAM

From Page 1

it moves forward.

Moreover, Camacho suggested the White House still has to weigh how the American military's work in the region might influence the plan and how it might impact the interests of local authorities in Guam and the CNMI.

"While the mission of the Department of Defense is crucial for national security and the Marianas Trench has high strategic military value, the designation of a monument without a complete assessment of Department of Defense operations and procedures would compromise the ultimate intent and purpose of a monument—the protection and conservation of marine resources," the letter says. "Furthermore, if a monument should be established, it is crucial that the interests of the Government of Guam and [the CNMI] be incorporated into preliminary designs and studies."

Camacho's letter comes a day after Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) wrote to the White House and also called the monument plan into question, saying the Bush administration should consider conservation efforts under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, which require public and business sector input, rather than unilaterally designating the waters at issue as a monument.

Local leaders who have previously taken a hardline stance against the monument, including Gov, Benigno Fitial, have recently softened their position on it in the wake of talks with Connaughton on Saipan last week.

Fitial's spokesman, Charles Reyes, has said so long as the plan includes measures that could restore the CNMI's control over near-shore ocean resources, the local government is "more open" to continuing talks with the White House. However, local leaders have yet to give the plan their support.

GOB

From Page 1

"The total is approximate because there may be interest added once the October statement is received from the Bank of Hawaii," he said.

Therefore, the former judge said, the grand total of funds in GOB's possession is $883,520.11.

He said the only known and significant outstanding liability that the GOB has is a payment for auditing services being currently rendered by J. Scott Magliari & Co. The total amount to be paid for such services will be in the vicinity of $5,000, Bellas said.

In the distribution of the residual settlement funds, the chairman said the total number of checks GOB had mailed out to class members (former and current garment workers) is 13,676, but only 8,152 of those checks were cashed as of Sept. 30, 2008.

Bellas said each check was worth $145 so the total amount of residual settlement funds disbursed is $1,182,040.

He said there are 1,233 checks that were returned to GOB as undeliverable, for a total amount of $178,785.

Bellas said there are 4,291 checks that were not returned and not yet cashed, for a total of $622,195.

"Assuming that an additional $50,000 of the outstanding checks are cashed between now and Dec. 31, 2008, the closing balance of all funds remaining in the GOB's accounts will be approximately $830,000," he said.

Bellas proposed to the court that, while the GOB's existence will end Friday, there should be "caretaker operations" as its checking account will not be closed until Dec. 31, 2008.

He explained that in an effort to get as much of the residual settlement funds to the workers, GOB continued to reissue any checks that had been returned via mail because of some problems.

As a result, he said, as recently as mid-October 2008, GOB still reissued checks to class members.

"A certain amount of time will be needed for these replacement checks to be negotiated by the class members and for them to appear on the GOB checking account statement," Bellas said.

Therefore, he said, the current accounting will not be complete until after the GOB ceases operations on Oct. 31, 2008, and thereafter receives its monthly checking account statements.

"It would be in the workers' best interests to maintain the GOB checking account open for an additional 30 to 60 days in order to allow all of the reissued checks to clear the account," the chairman said.

During the interim period of Oct. 31, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2008, he said no new financial transactions will be entertained, with the exception of payment of necessary expenses or any obligations that were incurred prior to Oct. 31, 2008.

Upon closing the account on Dec. 31, 2008, Bellas said, all checks not cashed by that time shall be void or voided and he shall be authorized to transfer the balance of the checking account to a new Garment Worker Trust Fund account.

He will then file a final accounting advising the court and all interested parties of the final amount that is deposited into the Trust Fund by Jan. 31, 2009.

Upon the expiration of the Trust Fund, the trustees would solicit proposals from non-profit charitable organizations in the community, with the court's approval, Bellas said.

He said the trustees will then donate the remaining money to the chosen organization.

GOB was set up pursuant to the $20-million settlement agreement in the class action against CNMI's garment industry. Its purpose was to oversee the monitoring program of the garment industry.

Before the remaining settlement money was transferred to GOB last year, a company (Gilardi) that was tasked to distribute the funds to some current and former garment workers informed the federal court that it successfully mailed out almost 29,800 checks to individuals located in 17 countries.

The company said the total cash distribution represented by the checks is $2.3 million out of an initial net fund of $4 million.

SEIZE

From Page 1

Chief Judge Alex R. Munson directed the U.S. Marshal to retain the unpaid balance of $262,714.60 plus per diem interest from and after Oct. 24, 2008, at the rate of $31.35 per day until the date the judgment is satisfied.

In his order of writ of execution issued Tuesday, Munson ordered the U.S. Marshal to come to court on Nov. 7, 2008, to give the money to Antonio S. Camacho.

The judge issued the writ of execution following the request of attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Camacho.

Dotts said he twice contacted DPL's counsel, the Office of the Attorney General, to open a dialogue so they could reach a mutually agreeable method to pay the judgment in the case.

Dotts said acting Attorney General Gregory Baka has not responded.

Munson recently ruled that the court can enforce its judgments against CNMI government agencies even if the Legislature has not appropriated money to satisfy such judgments.

"The failure of the Legislature to fulfill its constitutional mandate does not, cannot, and will not prevent the court from taking all necessary steps to ensure that its judgments are enforceable," Munson said.

"A court that cannot enforce its judgments must forever close its doors, as it will have become nothing more than an historical curiosity," said Munson in granting a motion for writ of execution.

The judge stayed Camacho from attempting to enforce the $239,397 judgment he obtained against DPL as the successor to the defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority until Oct. 24, 2008, to allow the parties to reach a mutually agreeable method to pay the judgment.

"If no agreement can be reached within that time, [Camacho] may pursue the remedies sought in his motion, including a writ of execution," the judge said.

In December 2006, a federal jury found DPL, as the successor to the defunct MPLA, liable to pay $239,397 to Camacho for the taking of his land in Gualo Rai.

The jurors determined that Camacho's property was taken on Feb. 28, 1992 and that the fair market value of his land during the time of taking is $95 per square meter. The jurors found that 6 percent annual interest rate should be applied to compensate him.

Dotts served as counsel for Camacho in that case.

DPL appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. DPL's appeal was dismissed in August 2007 for failing to file an opening brief. The case lay dormant until Camacho filed the motion for writ of execution.

DPL urged the federal court to defer to Commonwealth law and agree with them that Camacho has no means to enforce his judgment without an appropriation by the Legislature.

DPL cited the Commonwealth Code, which directs that payment of judgments rendered against the Commonwealth government are to be paid by legislative appropriation.

In his decision, Munson said if the courts were required to balance the interests of its ability to enforce validly-rendered judgments versus the right of the Legislature to fulfill its statutory duties, the court finds "that the balance tilts overwhelmingly in favor of protecting the independence of the federal judiciary and of providing federal litigants in the Commonwealth a meaningful, timely avenue to collect judgments."

CUC urged to cut rates already

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A lawmaker yesterday called on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to bring its rates down, pointing to the declining cost of fuel.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said a utility rate reduction is urgently needed given the continuing trend of local businesses shutting down.

"Given the steep plunge in the cost of fuel in recent days and projections for a continued decrease in prices, I request that the utility provide a date for a concomitant reduction in the power prices to our power users," Hofschneider said in a letter to CUC executive director Antonio Muna.

He added, "This action is critical to the survival of local businesses and the well-being of our families. As you are aware, several businesses have recently announced closures…citing power costs as the primary reason for closing their doors. Jobs are lost, adding to the hardship already experienced by our families. It is imperative that we provide relief."

The price of oil fell to $62.73 a barrel Tuesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, a huge drop from the record of $147.27 on July 11.

However, the plunging cost of fuel may not show in the CUC bills until three months later. Muna, in a public hearing recently, told lawmakers that CUC's contract with its fuel supplier. Mobil Marianas, provides for a "cost-averaging" scheme, which helps both parties handle the fluctuations in oil prices.

He added that CUC's rate setting procedure reflects this method by providing for a three-month "look back period." "When we set the rates for October, we look at July to see whether we over-collected or under-collected, then we adjust the rates accordingly," he said.

Villagomez: There were no plans for Korean nurses at the hospital

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health and the Commonwealth Health Center never advertised or solicited for several Korean nurses to come to Saipan and work as interns at CHC, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said yesterday.

In July, Jay Kim and Simon Shin from La Paloma Company contacted then- Secretary for Hospital Administration Joseph Santos about bringing Korean nurses to Saipan to work as interns at CHC, but although Santos said he would consider a plan, no promises of employment were made, Villagomez said.

Villagomez said Kim and Shin brought the nurses to Saipan approximately three weeks ago with no concrete plan in place.

"They have now sought to force CHC into accepting these nurses into an internship program that does not exist," he said in a statement. "In fact, it was irresponsible of Kim and Shin and La Paloma Co. to have brought these nurses to Saipan and/or made them promises for things not yet agreed to or that were outside of their control."

When the nurses met with Villagomez, several of them said Kim promised them future work at CHC.

Currently, CHC does not have an internship program and is not adequately equipped for one, Villagomez said.

"With regards to any internship program, there needs to be a sanctioned curriculum and a full-time staff nurse or an instructor assigned to such a program to ensure that the participating students or nurses are indeed following the curriculum and/or accomplishing the stated goals," he said.

The focus for nurses employed at CHC is to ensure proper patient care, not to serve as instructors for visiting interns, he added.

"It is for this reason that nursing students from the Northern Marianas College, the Loyola University in the CNMI and Emmanuel College all have sanctioned curriculum and their own instructors that are always present at CHC when their students are doing their clinical rotation," he added.

It has been reported that the nurses paid Kim $6,000 for "transportation and arrangement costs."

"While it is unfortunate that these Korean nurses may have unreasonably relied on the promises of Kim, Shin and La Paloma Co. to their detriment, this is not the responsibility of DPH and CHC. Any suggestion by Kim, Shin or La Paloma Co. that this situation is the responsibility of DPH and CHC is grossly misplaced," Villagomez said.

Man who allegedly sold 'ice' near Tinian school arrested

Drug Enforcement Administration agents and Saipan and Tinian police arrested a man who allegedly sold methamphetamine or "ice" near a school on Tinian.

The U.S. government yesterday filed an information charging Ying Min Jin with one count of possession with the intent to distribute and distribution of a controlled substance near a school.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley said that on Aug. 27, 2008, Jin was caught with 1.847 grams of "ice" within 1,000 feet of the Tinian Grace Christian Academy.

At yesterday's hearing, Jin waived the indictment.

A DEA special agent stated in his report that on Aug. 27, a confidential source was able to purchase $140 worth of "ice" from Jin inside a poker arcade on Tinian.

The officers then entered the poker establishment where they arrested Jin.

A DEA agent and an officer searched Jin and recovered the $140 used by the confidential source to purchase the "ice."

The agent and the officer also recovered 2.6 grams of "ice" from Jin's wallet and front pants pocket, according to the report.

Jin allegedly confessed that he sources the "ice" from a supplier on Saipan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CRISOSTIMO
LUIS PALACIOS
for CNMI U.S. DELEGATE
Si Angando "Building the Marianas Together" 2008
Thank You ★ Si Yu'us Ma'ase ★ Olomwaay
APPRECIATION RALLY
The Committee to Elect Senator Luis Palacios Crisostimo for the CNMI's Non-Voting Delegate to the U.S. Congress cordially requests your presence to our APPRECIATION RALLY on Friday at:
PLACE: ANGANDO Building
(Lower Navy Hill, behind Happy Market)
DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2008 (Friday) TIME: 6:30PM
Join us for an evening of good food, entertainment, and relaxation.
PLEASE VOTE ★ BOTA
6. CRISOSTIMO
Luis Palacios
PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT LUIS P. CRISOSTIMO, MARYANN DEMAPAN-CALVO, TREASURER.

Palauans in NMI, Guam, Hawaii to vote on Sat.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palauan absentee voters in the CNMI, Guam and Hawaii will go to the polling place this Saturday Nov. 1 in connection with the upcoming general elections at home, Palau's consulate office on Saipan announced yesterday.

Consul Eileen Kintol said the polling place would be located at Building E of Marianas High School, which would be open from 7am to 9pm.

There are over a thousand Palauans in the CNMI but the consulate office cannot determine the exact number of registered absentee voters. Kintol said they could only estimate the number at about 300 to 500.

Some 50 voters attended a meeting with Palau Community College President Patrick Telei, who spoke about the upcoming general elections at the Minachom Atdao Tuesday night.

Telei, who was here for a seminar, said he was just speaking in his personal capacity because he wanted to educate Palauan citizens in the CNMI about the several amendments that would be part of the elections.

Telei was a member of the Second Constitutional Convention that drafted 23 proposed changes to the Palau Constitution.

Presidential candidate Johnson Toribiong was the chairman of the ConCon.

Palauan citizens would be electing a new President and Vice President as well as the 13 members of the Senate.

Lawyer Johnson Toribiong and House of Delegate member Kerai Mariur would face the tandem of current Vice President Elias Camsek Chin and Senate Floor Leader Alan Seid.

There are a total of 43 candidates for the Senate, the most in the history of Palauan elections. The list includes outgoing President Tommy Remengesau Jr., who earlier this year was co-named with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore as *Time Magazine*'s environment awardees of the year.

There are six incumbent senators that include Mlib Tmetuchl, Hokkons Baules, Santy Asanuma, Yukiwo Dengokl, Caleb Otto and Alfonso Diaz, while five are Remengesau's Cabinet ministers including Elbuchel Sadang (Finance), Temmy L. Shmull (Stae), Otoichi Besebes (Commerce and Trade), Fritz Koshiba (Resources and Development), and Mario Katosang (Education).

Only one member of the House of Delegate is seeking a Senate seat, Joel Toribiong, who represents the commercial capital of Koror in the lower chamber and is the younger brother of the other presidential candidate.

The others are lawyer Raynold Arnold Oilouch, businessman Mark U. Rudimch, Headstart Director Regina K. Mesebeluu, Masayuki Adelbai, Haruo Ngiraked Wilter, Gale Ngirmidol, Masa-Aki Emesiochel, Joan Hinang Demei, Adalbert Eledui, Jeff Ngrarsaol, Paul Ueki, Tadashi Sakuma, Martin Renguul, Elia Tulop, Ngirataoch Nick Ngiwal, Dair Sumang, James Unique Orak, Roman Yano, Radao Ngotel, Joel Toribiong, Jonh B. Skebong, Dwight Alexander, Regis Akitaya, J. Risong Tarkong, Ernest Ongidobel, Lorenza Olkeriil, Kathy Kesolie, Jennifer Sugiyama-Yano, Dilmei Olkeriil, Steven Kanai and Gillain Johannes.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ

The president of Palau Community College, Patrick Telei, speaks with over 50 Palauans Tuesday night at the Minachom Atdao regarding the upcoming general elections this Saturday, Nov. 1 for absentee voters.

Students learn about proper dental care

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students at San Vicente Elementary got a mouthful yesterday, as they learned about proper dental hygiene.

As part of National Dental Hygiene Month, local dental hygienist Lori Serna from SDA Dental Clinic visited classrooms to teach students about proper dental care.

"Education and awareness is the key," Serna said, adding that it's important to inform the kids at a young age about proper care, because they usually have cavities.

In the U.S. mainland, studies show that 60 percent of elementary students have at least one cavity. Although no similar studies have been conducted in the CNMI, Serna said she estimates 80 percent of elementary students in the Public School System have at least one cavity.

She attributes the number to a lack of awareness and a mentality, "if it doesn't hurt don't fix it."

That's why it's important to clear up myths about proper dental hygiene, such as candy causes cavities and if candy is avoided it is not necessary to brush teeth, she said. Food alters the pH balance in the mouth, and brushing brings the level back to neutral.

People should brush for two minutes, Serna said, adding that she recommends people brush as they watch TV or are on the computer. Studies have shown that people who brush in front of the mirror only brush for 17 seconds.

Although toothpaste smells nice, dry brushing is effective, she said.

"Toothpaste is like wearing cologne," she said. "It smells and feels cleans, but it's like putting on cologne without taking a shower, which is just nasty."

At the school presentations, students were given vouchers for a free dental exam, where parents can ask dentists questions. Anybody on island can also receive a free exam to coincide with the National Dental Hygiene Month, Serna said. People can call the SDA Dental Clinic at 234-6323.

The American Dental Hygienists' Association sponsors the nationwide observation of the month of October as National Dental Hygiene Month.

Family Fun Walk and Proclamation Signing!

November is DIABETES PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH & HOME CARE MONTH

Garapan Fishing Basin
Monday, November 3, 2008

Registration & Proclamation begins at 4:00 p.m.
Walk begins at 5:00 p.m.

First 100 Participants who COMPLETE the walk will get a Free Gift

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MHS

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a man with a clear vision and understanding of the issues that matter now.

VOTE!

9. Atalig Felipe Norita Quitugua

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
IFB09-GOV-007

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 05, 2008 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROCUREMENT OF EXPLORATORY DRILLING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE CNMI WATER TASK FORCE"

GOVERNOR BENIGNO R. FITIAL AND LT. GOVERNOR TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ, THROUGH THE CNMI WATER TASK FORCE, ARE SOLICITING SEALED BIDS FROM QUALIFIED FIRMS OR INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF EXPLORATORY DRILLING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO CONDUCT EXPLORATORY WELL DRILLING ON SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

THE PROCUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN ON OR AFTER **OCTOBER 22, 2008.**

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. THOMAS S. SALAS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, VIA E-MAIL AT salasthomas@gmail.com NO LATER THAT **2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 03, 2008.**

THE BIDDING PROCEDURES SHALL BE INN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS. PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED. IT MUST BE CLAIMED AT THE TIME OF BID SUBMISSION WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL
GOVERNOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Tim wants to go to Guam to prepare trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and the U.S. government yesterday asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow Villagomez to travel to Guam where his lawyer, David J. Lujan, is staying.

Villagomez, through Lujan, and the U.S. government, through assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley, filed yesterday a stipulation in court to amend Villagomez's bail conditions to allow the lieutenant governor to travel between Saipan and Guam for the purpose of preparing for his trial.

Villagomez's trial, along with his co-defendants, has been set for March 23, 2009. Lujan's main office is in Guam.

According to the stipulation, due to scheduling conflicts that may arise between now and trial, Lujan requires the flexibility to meet with Villagomez in Guam to prepare for motions hearing, to review discovery, and to prepare for trial.

The parties agreed that Villagomez will request for his passport from the U.S. Marshal's Office no later than 24 hours prior to his intended departure to Guam.

Villagomez will return his passport to the U.S. Marshal's Office within 24 hours of his return to Saipan.

Villagomez will also collaborate with the Office of Probation relative to his travel to and from Guam.

As of 2pm yesterday, the federal court had yet to decide on the stipulation.

The deadline for Villagomez to file pre-trial motions was set no later than Nov. 10, 2008.

Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James Santos, Joaquina Santos, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero were indicted on charges of conspiring to bilk CUC out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless chemical purchases for CUC.

Villagomez and the Santos couple maintain that they are innocent of the charges. Guerrero has already entered a guilty plea.

RNC chairman endorses Pete A.

In a letter dated Oct. 16, 2008, Republican National Committee chair Robert "Mike" Duncan endorsed the candidacy of Republican Pete A. Tenorio in his bid to become he first Delegate to the U.S. Congress from the CNMI.

The letter also recognized the significance of the election.

"This is an historic occasion for your islands as it is the very first time the people of the Northern Marianas are exercising their right, as Americans, to send a Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives," Duncan told Tenorio. "Congratulations to you and all the people of the CNMI for finally realizing representation in our nation's legislative body."

Duncan praised Tenorio's past accomplishments, saying, "Your long-standing record of public service is testament to your dedication to the people of the Commonwealth.

"As a negotiator who helped craft the Covenant forging the bond between the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands, as a two term Lt. Governor and now as the Resident Representative to the U.S., you have already shown that you possess the qualities of an elected official who gets the job done.'"

Local Republican Party chair Ed Tenorio lauded the endorsement. "This is a big step for the CNMI," said Ed Tenorio, "as we are the only nationally recognized party from the CNMI. We can finally get our agenda and our needs presented on the national stage. Party affiliation is extremely important in Washington, and Pete A. is recognized by the RNC as a leader who can get things done." ***(PR)***

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CNMI GOP Rally with Pete "A."
Your Candidate for Delegate to U.S. Congress

The NMI Republican Party &
Committee to Elect Pedro A. Tenorio – Delegate
invite you to join us for a
Roadside Waving – Civic Center
Thursday, October 30th, 2008 from 5:00-6:00 pm.

Following the Waving, please join us at the Civic Center Basketball Court for our

GOP Rally

It will be a fun-filled night with live entertainment, food and drink – All are invited!

If needed, transportation may be provided – please call 287-5658.

This Ad was approved by me, Pete A. Tenorio, and paid for by the Committee to Elect Pedro A. Tenorio-Delegate
P.O. Box 10006, PMB 850, Saipan, MP 96950
www.peteaforcongress.com petea4delegate@yahoo.com

Local families needed for exchange program

The Edures Inc., with the assistance of the Marianas Visitors Authority, is inviting families on the island of Saipan to sponsor 58 young male Japanese students from the Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School in Japan.

The students will be arriving on Saipan on Nov. 15, and will depart Nov. 17. The students will also have schedules in the morning that will occupy their time.

Families may house up to three students in their homes. If you can provide meals and transportation for the students to their respective meeting areas, that would be beneficial but not a necessary requirement.

"For quite some time, we have been assisting with annual exchange programs to and from Japan," says MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The exchange programs continue the friendship between the two countries. We would like to set up families who are willing to sponsor and open up their homes for these children who are more than anxious to learn about our unique culture and what our islands have to offer."

If anyone is interested or know of someone who is willing to sponsor one or more students, contact Frank Tudela at (670) 664-3200/01, e-mail at ftudela@mymarianas.com or drop by the MVA office in San Jose. The deadline to submit all inquiries is today, Oct. 30, no later than 5pm. ***(MVA)***

UPCOMING EVENTS

CNMI Citizenship Day holiday
The CNMI celebrates its Citizenship Day holiday on Nov. 4, Election Day—the day that voters of the CNMI select a delegate to the U.S. Congress for the very first time.

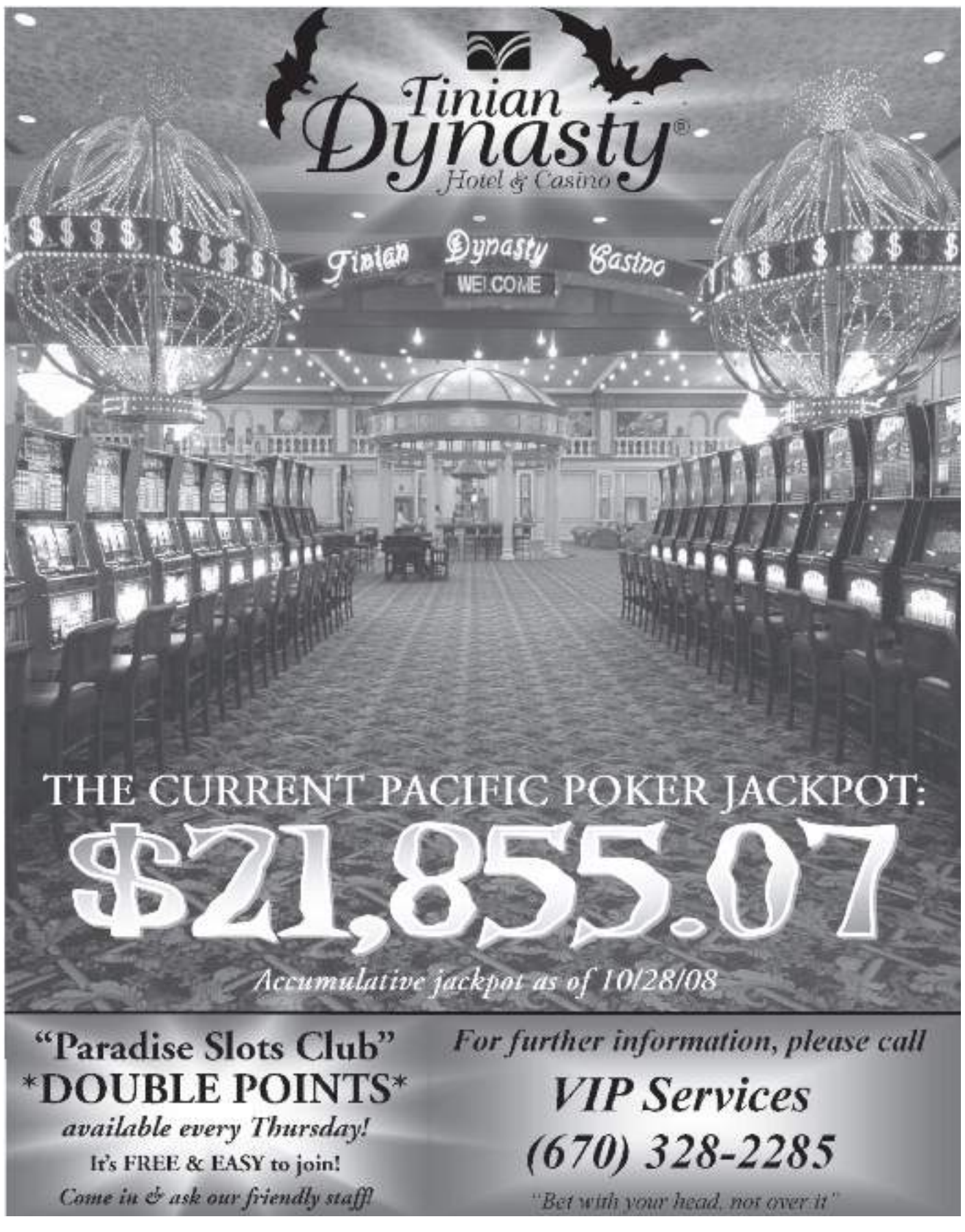
Veteran's Week proclamation
Gov. Benigno Fitial will sign a Veteran's Week Proclamation in his conference room at 10am on Nov. 5, in anticipation of the Veteran's Day holiday on Nov. 11.

Shikogakuen Peace Ceremony
Governor Fitial will join members of the Shikogakuen Mission in a peace ceremony at Banzai Cliff, Marpi, on Nov. 8, where he is expected to deliver brief remarks honoring those who perished in the NMI during World War II and supporting the cause of world peace.

Veteran's Day ceremony
Gov. Benigno Fitial will join members of the U.S. military, CNMI veterans, and community members in a Veteran's Day ceremony at the American Memorial Park in Garapan on Nov. 11. The ceremony will take place at 10am.

Pacific Health Care Conference
Gov. Benigno Fitial is scheduled to attend on Nov. 13 a Pacific Health Care Conference at the Fiesta Resort, where he is expected to deliver brief remarks.

Source: Office of the Governor website



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 30, 2000

Wendy's closes shop today
In what appears to be a strong indication that the island's economy has been persistently rallying weakly, international food chain Wendy's Restaurant is closing its doors to Saipan customers beginning today. Wendy's International has acknowledged that there is no assurance that such growth will occur or that international operations will be profitable although it has developed the support structure required for international growth. Company officials were not immediately available to comment on the reported closure, but employees confirmed the restaurant will be closed from today on.

CNMI sighs temporary relief over minimum wage
House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial on Saturday expressed relief over reports that the U.S. Congress is deferring action on legislation that would raise minimum wage in the CNMI at par with the federal level. But he said the island government would not relax its efforts to block any federal takeover attempt, noting any legislative action in Washington D.C. favorable to the Commonwealth is a result of its lobbying campaign. Reports from the nation's capital have indicated that measures hiking minimum wage across the country, including the CNMI, are not expected to be passed in the next few weeks because of next month's U.S. elections.

October 30, 2001

House rushes budget to Senate
Reflecting grim predictions of plunging revenues next year, the House of Representatives literally scraped the bottom of the barrel yesterday for a dollar here and a dollar there to pass the revised $206.97 million budget measure for fiscal year 2002. This came about yesterday afternoon, even as the Legislature races against the November 3 elections. Unlike previous budget measures where cuts and increases were substantial enough to matter, House Bill 12-423 largely reflected the submission made by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on October 24, with cuts on some programs and agencies amounting to no more than a thousand or so. In some instances, the cuts were only a dollar or two.

Strong waves drag man to sea
Authorities have been scouring the King Fisher cliff line and its surrounding areas since Sunday night in search of a man who was reportedly swept into the water by strong waves. A witness, Felix Palacios, told police that he and his friend, Herberto Guillermo Hipolito, were standing by the King Fisher cliff line when fierce waves pushed them into the water. Though Palacios made it back to the cliff line, Hipolito has unfortunately not surfaced since the October 28 incident. Police officers Anthony Diaz, Stanley Patris and Patrick Togawa, in a preliminary report, said they responded to the distress call and combed the As Teo cliff line waters on board the Department of Public Safety vessel Zodiac II.

October 30, 2002

Mayor to endorse AT Awareness Month
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela will endorse November as Assistive Technology Awareness Month during a ceremony scheduled at 9am today at the Multi-Purpose Center, the CNMI Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities announced yesterday. AT project coordinator Celia B. Lamkin said a series of activities that would benefit individuals with disabilities, as well as senior citizens, will be held during the observance of the AT Awareness Month. Lamkin added that the events would also raise awareness on the importance of assistive technology equipment and services for children, students and elders with disabilities.

Bird Island accident victim said critical
The woman who nearly drowned at the waters off the Bird Island Sanctuary Saturday was seriously injured that she had to be admitted at the Commonwealth Health Center's intensive care unit, police said yesterday. The woman, identified as Emerenciana D. Chinen, reportedly had water in her lungs and was suffering from lack of oxygen flow to the brain as a result of the drowning incident. Police spokesman Lt. Pete Muna said the victim and her companions were walking on the reef to the island when a strong current caused her to fall onto the waters. A companion tried to grab the victim's hand but failed to immediately rescue the victim. Another companion, a certain Dani Hosek, jumped to the waters and held the victim who was floating face down, police said.

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

October 30, thru November 5, 2008

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Halloween Savings!

CANDIES ON SALE!

Artificial Flowers **30% off**

Halloween Costumes and accessories **35% off**

Wicker Baskets **25% off**

Umbrellas **25% off**

Tents, Folding Chair **25% off**

Giant Open Roses Silk Flower.. $1.99

Supermarket

Soft 'n Gentle Bath Tissue 4 roll white **$1.69**

So-Dri Paper Towel white Assorted 1 roll **$1.29**

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HAFA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-7596 MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.

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sku # 3225711, 5752
20 watts Warm Light or Day Light - **$4.49**

sku # 3225778, 5844
23 watts Warm or Day Light - **$4.49**

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Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm/Sunday 8am - 5pm

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Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
San Vicente Road
Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Stevens verdict: A proud senator falls victim to his sense of entitlement

We've had our differences over the years with Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens, but it was difficult not to feel some sadness Monday when the 84-year-old Republican was convicted of all seven counts of accepting more than $250,000 in gifts from the head of an Alaska oil services company and others and failing to report them on his Senate financial disclosure forms. After a career in public service that began before Alaska was a state, and just a week before Alaska voters are to decide whether he should be elected to a seventh full term, Mr. Stevens now faces likely defeat and the prospect of jail time. And for what? The amount of freebies that Mr. Stevens accepted to renovate his Alaska "chalet" is significant, but the individual components—a Viking grill, a vibrating Shiatsu massage lounger, a five-foot steel sculpture of migrating salmon—underscore the petty needlessness of Mr. Stevens' crime.

The obstreperous Mr. Stevens fought hard for his state in ways that we have often opposed—to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration, to use his perch on the Senate Appropriations Committee to shovel hundreds of millions of dollars in pork projects to the state. Now, he is likely to be remembered as one of just five senators to have been convicted of a crime. The last sitting senator to be convicted of a felony was New Jersey Democrat Harrison A. Williams Jr. in 1981, found guilty of accepting a bribe in the Abscam sting.

There is a larger lesson in the Stevens prosecution, which is the sense of entitlement to which public officials can fall prey and, perhaps among the most powerful, a sense of imperviousness to the ordinary rules. After all, they may tell themselves, they work long hours for far less money than they could make in the private sector. After all, they have done so much for their constituents. After all, these are gifts from a friend. This is a mind-set that has been on sad display all too often in Washington in recent years, and, in truth, it is something that not even the most stringent ethics laws can fully protect against. Those who are determined to cheat the system by improperly accepting gifts and failing to report them must realize, as a spate of public corruption prosecutions has proved, that what they may justify to themselves as penny ante is in fact criminal. Mr. Stevens worked to give so much to his state, but he forgot the most important duty he owed its citizens: honest service.

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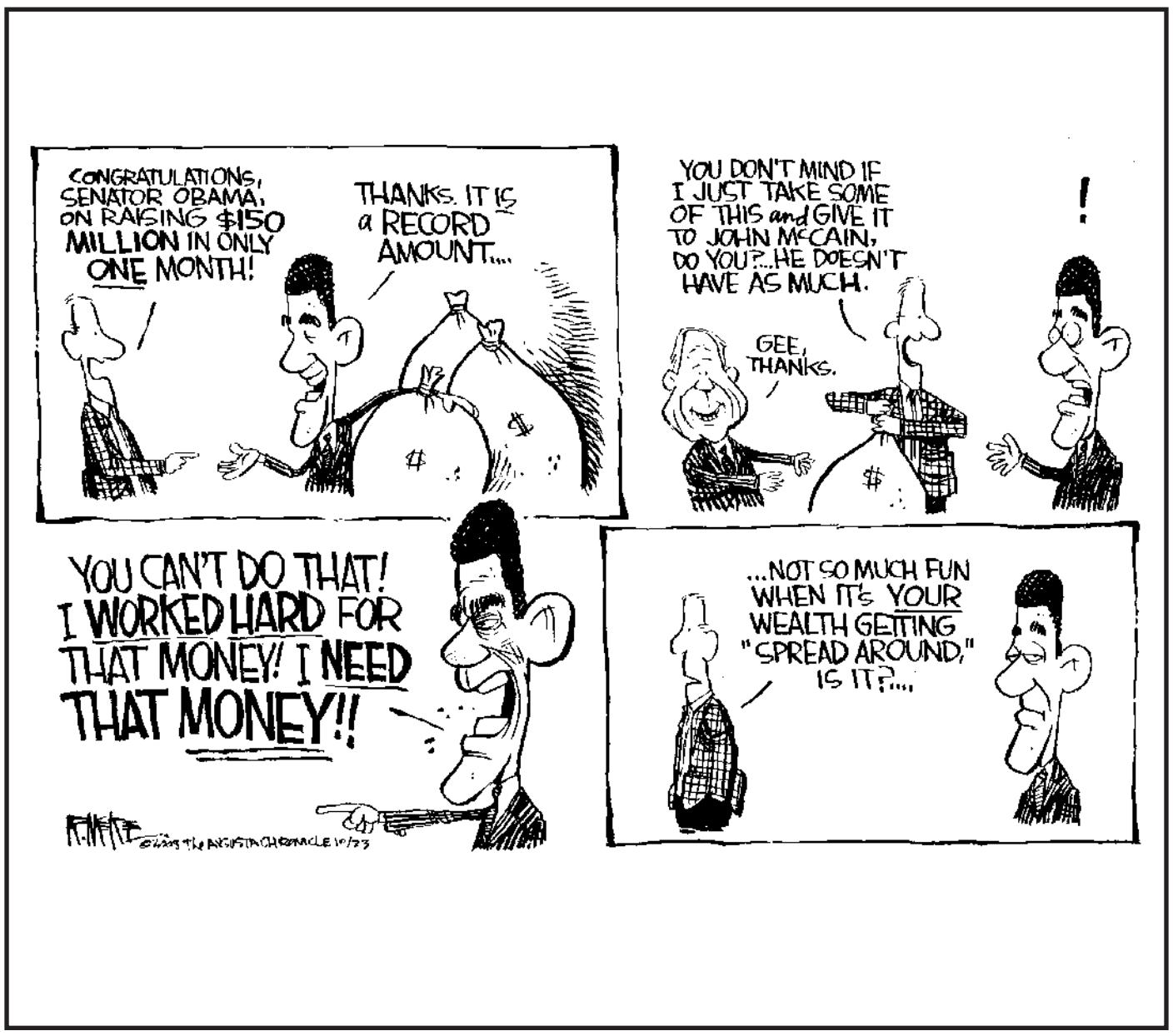
CONGRATULATIONS, SENATOR OBAMA, ON RAISING $150 MILLION IN ONLY ONE MONTH!
THANKS. IT IS a RECORD AMOUNT....
YOU CAN'T DO THAT! I WORKED HARD FOR THAT MONEY! I NEED THAT MONEY!!
YOU DON'T MIND IF I JUST TAKE SOME OF THIS and GIVE IT TO JOHN McCAIN, DO YOU?...HE DOESN'T HAVE AS MUCH.
GEE, THANKS.
!
...NOT SO MUCH FUN WHEN IT'S YOUR WEALTH GETTING "SPREAD AROUND," IS IT?...

House of Horrors

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at rikv@bizresults.org

While my son and I were in Los Angeles last year, we went to Universal Studios. Out of all the interesting rides and attractions, there is one called the House of Horrors. It is a multi-sensory spook alley that has some of the Studio's famous horror movie characters from the silent screen to the modern age.

While we were walking through the haunted house, some frightened boys ran the opposite way in the line to get out of the place. This heightened the tension of everyone as we waited in the line for something horrible to happen. We could hear screaming and howls of pain ahead of us; however, we continued our journey because there was no place to go except to turn around and run like those frightened young boys.

Even though Halloween is over, we still have plenty of places on Saipan that continue to exhibit their "house of horrors." These are the businesses that scare their customers away with frightful service. Their employees do not wear costumes, but instead put on zombie faces that only come alive when it's ready to punch the time clock to go home. Many of the walking dead can be found lurking the halls of government offices where their verbal and nonverbal actions let you know you are an unwelcome guest.

Is your business a house of horrors for customers? Are you aware of the things that frustrate them and possibly scare them away? They might be the general frustrations that customers feel when they interact with any business in your industry. For example, when you visit a doctor at the scheduled appointment time, you know that you will have to wait anywhere from 15 to 50 minutes before being seen. Other examples include no prices on products or the shelf they sit on, lack of parking spaces, or limited selection, low inventory levels, no service after the sale, etc.

If your business could overcome the painful experiences that are common among you and your competitors, it could give you a competitive edge. As you eliminate frustrations and replace them with the opposite, then your business will become more appealing to prospects and customers. The first step is to identify the various frustrations by inviting your staff to a brainstorming session where you list all of the horrors experienced by your customers. You may even invite some of your customers to the meeting to hear what they have to say.

Identify a topic statement to get everyone's thoughts focused, and have them spend a few minutes writing down the answers to the question. Go around the room and have each person take turns stating just one frustration at a time so that everyone has a chance to contribute. Make a list of them on a flip chart or whiteboard so everyone can see them. One possible topic question could be: "What are the key frustrations our customers experience when they interact with our business?"

It's important to not criticize or disagree with anyone's comments. This might cause people to hedge comments and just tell you things they think you want to hear. After everyone has had a chance to share their thoughts, this becomes your list of horrors that causes customers to have a negative experience when they encounter a frustrating situation at your business.

With all of points listed, it's now time to prioritize the frustrations so that you can identify the top ones to work on. This is done by asking each person to write what they think are the top three frustrations. Go around the room again, asking individuals to tell you their three items. The person's number one frustration is worth three points, second is worth two, and the third prioritized frustration gets one point. These points are put next to each frustration listed on the board, and when all have had a chance to comment, the points are added up. The frustration with the most points will be what the group's feels is the number one frustration, the second highest points number two, and so forth.

Once the order of frustrating experiences is identified, the next step will be to discuss how they can be eliminated, who will be responsible, when it should be accomplished, the resources needed and budget available to reduce or eliminate the frustration, and any staff training to ensure the frustration does not reoccur.

Ideally, a policy and procedure document will be created that can be referred to in the future, or used to train new employees. Periodic reviews or customer surveys are useful to make sure the maddening experience has not crept back into the organization. As you tackle each frustration and turn it into a delight for your customer, you will find that you house of horrors will be transformed into a place of pleasantness where customers and prospects look forward to spending their time and money.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Highlighting the historic role of the CNMI

By DAVID M. CING
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Commonwealth needs to attract the attention of U.S. Congress. As your delegate, I pledge to submit a resolution in the first 100 days in office concerning the U.S military use of the Mariana Islands in the past, present, and in our future.

I am committed:

1. To appeal for what is rightfully ours. We will not beg for federal handouts. As your elected delegate, I will fight for what is rightfully ours.

Our island was used to assemble, fly, and drop the most lethal weapon ever used on mankind—the atomic bombs (aka Fat Man and Little Boy), which ended World War II and placed the United States of America in history as the most respected nation in the world. It was through this factor that contributed to the success and legacy of the United States, and for this, the CNMI deserves its share of the pie.

2. To appeal for an equitable price tag for the lease of the island of Tinian. Under the Covenant agreement, two-thirds of the land on Tinian was leased by the military for 50 years at $1 per hectare with option to extend the lease for another 50 years at the same price. This is a lease for 100 years at a fixed price of one dollar per hectare, a price tag that I believe is far below the market value of our property.

We need to revisit the Covenant and discuss Article VIII Section 802 and 803 for reconsideration. I do understand that the agreement between the United States and the Commonwealth under the Covenant is binding, but I also believe that the U.S. Congress has the power to overturn issue(s) for reconsideration, should we convince them beyond reasonable doubt that the U.S. had taken advantage of the situation (being the only prospective lessee at the time) and made no genuine effort to determine the best market price for our property. I sincerely believe that I can make a compelling argument before the U.S. Congress that the CNMI people got the short end of the stick under this lease agreement. Furthermore, as a Democrat representing the CNMI in a Democratic-majority Congress, the CNMI has a better chance of being guaranteed a final passage vote because the sponsor is from the majority party. As we all know, in the U.S. Congress the majority party rules.

Moreover, this is not the legacy that the U.S. wants to leave behind as the protector and defender under the trusteeship agreement. Tinian remains a vital defense site until this day and clearly the island will remain a significant strategic area for years to come as well. This is a matter that should be examined and scrutinized carefully.

3. The Rock Island of Aguiguan (aka Goat Island) was used for target purposes during the Navy and Trust Territory time without due compensation. Aguiguan was almost completely demolished as result of continuous bombing and today serves the CNMI of no purpose.

My fellow citizen of the Commonwealth should I succeed in this election for the U.S. Congress, I will convince the U.S. Congress that the islands, particularly Tinian, is a vital defense site and has a significant place in U.S. military success during World War II. We contributed to that success and we deserve the attention of the U.S. Congress. If elected, I will translate this commitment into millions of dollars, and persuade the federal government to once again open the Naval hospital in Guam and the Tripler hospital in Hawaii for our low-income families and for those who cannot afford or don't have medical insurance as additional payment for the use of the island of Tinian.

A strong advocate for the people and our issues

By JUAN T. LIZAMA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

My dearest people of the Commonwealth:

From the beginning, I committed myself to a campaign based on *issues*. I have expressed my positions on significant issues at various pocket meetings and will continue to do so until Election Day.

I will stay course and will not attack anyone, no matter what. We must uphold what we preach to our children. The word *"respeto"* will have no meaning if our actions show otherwise.

I have been asked the following questions and my responses follow:

1. Are you in favor of federalization? Why?

I am opposed to federalization with some qualifications such as national defense and security. Defending and securing our borders requires that we have adequate power generation for our islands. I view power blackouts as fundamental to that mission, and would work with the various federal agencies, such as the departments of Homeland Security and the Interior as well as the U.S. military, to resolve our power generation problems.

Unlike Guam, the CNMI is not a federal territory. Through the Covenant, we have retained a greater degree of self-governance. Congress should not attempt to take control of local government functions. It is disturbing that Congress has provided us with a delegate seat only after passing laws that the delegate could have effectively influenced before passage. The CNMI has never had an effective voice in the lawmaking process in Congress. The result is that Congress' recent enactments do not adequately consider the CNMI's unique history and economic conditions. If elected, I will change this by speaking clearly and frequently in the halls of Congress and the federal agencies to stress our point of view on the issues and offer alternatives to "federalization." I would also stress that any federal laws or regulations that specifically apply to the CNMI must meet two requirements. First, the law must be tailored to suit our local conditions. Second, the timetable for enforcement of such laws must account for our unique economic and historical circumstances.

2. Are you in favor of retaining Article 12? Why?

Yes, I favor retaining Article 12, and believe the CNMI Legislature should refrain from amending it. I strongly believe that allowing persons of Northern Mariana descent the privileges of Article 12 for another 55 years from 2011 is the right course of action. There are abundant reasons to maintain Article 12 and no good reasons to abolish it. Article 12 does not deter investment in the CNMI. Our own experience with Article 12 over the past 30 years irrefutably supports this. I do not favor increasing the leasehold interest to either 65 or 75 years. There is no compelling reason to change the leasehold interest at this time. It will not change the incentive to invest in the CNMI. There may be two facets of Article 12, however, that should be considered for change. One is the rules regard-

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Increased federal funding for the CNMI

By PETE A. TENORIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Since taking office in 2002 as your CNMI Resident Representative, I have worked hard to see to it that federal monies are brought home to the CNMI. In addition, I have also worked with congressional members to ensure that proposed legislation that would have a direct impact on the CNMI includes provisions that are beneficial to our people. Through these efforts, I have been able to directly increase federal funding by more than $50 million for the CNMI through either direct appropriations or increased authorizations. This amount does not include more than $15 million paid directly to families through child tax credits or stimulus payments.

Funds paid directly to the CNMI government:

■ **2003:** $10,000,000 for deficit reduction in the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act

■ **2003:** Compact Impact increased from $500,000 to $5.1 million annually, totaling $25.5 million from 2003-2008.

Economic benefits paid directly to constituents and their families

■ **2003:** Increased child tax credit to $1000 per child payable by US Treasury (authorized by the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act)

■ **2008**: Stimulus payments $300 and up depending on marital status and dependents, payable by US Treasury.

Utilities

■ **2004 and 2005**: Acquired $3 million for water infrastructure on top of annual Covenant funding.

Education

■ **2007:** Increased annual Pell Grant allowances for college students from $4,500 a year to $5,400 a year.

■ **2005**: Increased annual funding under the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act from $190,000 to $350,000

Health

Medicaid cap increases since 2002

Year	Amount in millions
2002	$ 2.1
2003	2.255
2004	2.381
2005	2.380
2006	3.380
2007	4.580

Veterans

2008 New GI bill, to begin Aug. 1, 2009

■ Increased tuition and fees equivalent to the amount charged by the most expensive in-state tuition charged at a public institution

■ Increased monthly housing allowance and book and supply allowance.

Transportation

■ **2005**: Authorization for the Talofofo Bridge project $12 million

■ **2005**: Increased Territorial Highway funds to $50 million from $36 million, to be shared by the CNMI, Guam, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa

Increased Eligibility

■ Promoted and achieved eligibility for grants under the Office of Economic Adjustment in the Department of Defense.

■ Promoted and achieved a set aside under the Higher Education Act for Asian and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions making it easier for Northern Marianas College to apply for Strengthening Institutions grants.

Making a difference for the betterment of the CNMI

By CHONG MAN WON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

To the people of the CNMI:

I personally would like to thank each and every person who has supported me and will vote for me come this Nov. 4. Please understand that even though I might not have visited you or personally asked for your vote, you do matter and I do need each and everyone's support. Even if I see you in public and I don't ask for your vote doesn't mean I don't need your vote because I do. I am sorry if I didn't attend everyone's funeral because I feel that a funeral is not a place for politics but a place to have respect for the family. People know who is there for politics or for real intentions and I do not want to pretend because you know. If my wife or I attended, it was because it was family or friends and not for politics. I am sorry if I don't help with every request for donations or assistance but if that's what it takes to get your vote then I personally don't want it. I would rather you vote for me because you have *faith* in me and believe that I am for the people and will try my best to help the people and not only the few. To my wife's close relatives, I hope that you understand that we didn't call or asked for help with our functions and events because we didn't want to burden you all. We understand that times are hard for everyone. However, with only days left before the election, I am asking the most important help possible and that is to vote for me by marking *number 2* on the ballot. Finally, I hope that everyone will remember whether I win or lose, I am the same person I was before this all started and will be the same person when it's all over. My wife didn't change. My family didn't change. They are and will be the same helping and respectable people. When we began this campaign, we didn't set out to make empty promises just to get votes but to ask the people to take a look and have *faith* that I will do the right things and help the people the best way that I can.

Just to clear up some points. I understand the importance of legislations but I don't hear any candidates saying, "I will pass legislation in the next two years." They are only saying "I will introduce" because they also must realize that almost 10,000 legislations are introduced by both houses during each sessions of Congress but on an average less than 500 become law. Legislations are important but if we expect relief within the next two years due to any legislations introduced by our delegate, don't hold your breath. Legislations to help the CNMI and move us closer to economic self-sufficiency will take time and even

See MAKING on Page 13

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

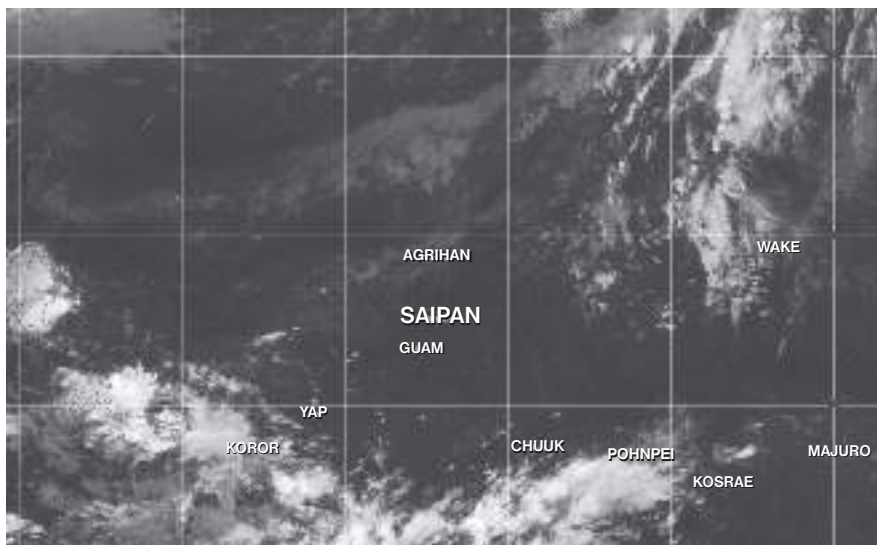
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Palau	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Kosrae	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲65	▼52
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲79	▼73
London	Showers	▲45	▼39
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲84	▼64
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼35
Osaka	Cloudy	▲65	▼49
Paris	Rain	▲47	▼33
Pusan	Cloudy	▲69	▼52
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲61	▼53
Salem	Rain	▲63	▼45
San Francisco	Rain	▲69	▼57
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼44
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼39

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area at 25N145E and stretches west-southwestward to 23N140E then continues as a shearline to beyond 130E at 21N. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are present north of this feature over Iwo To island or north of a line from 24N150E to 20N130E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Wake Island at 22N158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this low are seen just west of Wake Island or north of a line from 17N160E to 18N166E. A monsoon trough extends eastward from a circulation centered west of Koror at 9N130E to near Koror at 9N135E then turns southward to end at EQ140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and south of the trough axis over Palau or southwest of a line from 13N130E to 3N144E. Trade-wind convergence east the trough is creating scattered showers southwest of Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 4N150E to 3N145E to EQ142E. A surface trough runs north-northeastward from EQ152E to 8N156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis over Pohnpei but south of Chuuk within 170 miles of a line from 2N151E to 7N160E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering widely scattered showers over Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro between 4N and 10N from 160E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:16AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:05AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:37PM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:27PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:12AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:13AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:13AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:13AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:14AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:00AM	6:30PM
Friday	7:53AM	7:16PM
Saturday	8:46AM	8:05PM
Sunday	9:37AM	8:56PM
Monday	10:27AM	9:48PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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A STRONG

From Page 11

ing condominiums. Changes in that area will help the investment climate. The other would be a policy to accommodate those who are not of Northern Mariana descent but who have made our islands their home and have resided here for a number of years. We are an accommodating people. But to remain a cohesive people with our own cultural identity and underlying economic stability, we must maintain the land tenure that Article 12 provides us.

3. What should the CNMI do to improve its economy?

We must take better advantage of, and make improvements to what the CNMI has to offer in the world economy.

By way of example, we should focus on improving the Rota seaport. This could be a joint project with the military, resulting in local jobs and also in ferry transport between Rota and Guam. This in turn would give the military greater access to Rota as an island for rest and relaxation for members of the armed forces, their dependents and guests, and further increase local employment to support the increased number of visitors. The catalyst to an idea like this begins with building the right case and right relationships, which I would do in Congress, the federal agencies, and the halls of the Pentagon.

We must create a long-term strategic plan to promote our islands to the greatest number of investors and visitors. We should involve countries such as Russia, China, Japan and Korea to gather ideas on how to improve our economy and tourism. We must encourage more foreign students to study on our islands, and elders to retire here. Our strategic plan must use all the tools at our disposal to support our long-term goals. For example, we will need adequate laws, real investment opportunities, a planning agency managing a well-planned infrastructure, and consistent tax policies.

I also believe that it is time we figure out and implement rules that will provide preferential treatment for CNMI corporations in securing military contracts. This will be a boon to our local economy.

We also must bring another airline from Japan to the CNMI to boost tourist visits to our islands. I would give this a high priority, and work with the federal government and government of Japan to make this happen.

I also believe we must rebuild the villages of our islands with infrastructure using the uncommitted capital improvement funds. We can start a pilot project where the people can take part in development and receive training through these projects—develop and train as we go. I believe these types of local initiatives will draw Congress's attention and enthusiastic support.

Finally, we must realize that investment in education is a long-term economic investment in our future. We must invest now in our youth by providing them with superior education that anticipates the needs of our local economy. This will be fundamental to providing a local well-paid workforce, and incentive for our children to remain in the CNMI.

4. What should be done with CUC?

The CNMI government, whether through the CUC or another entity, has a fundamental responsibility to provide adequate electrical power to all residents. We need new power generators that will be operable for the next 50 years. Power generation should be overseen by a quasi-public corporation that with substantial private ownership. Ten percent stake should be reserved for people of Northern Marianas descent and funded by the MPLT. This corporation would have a board comprised of representatives from these three groups of investors. The executive functions of the corporation should be conducted by a separate entity under a performance-based contract.

Simultaneously, I will work with Congress, the federal agencies and the Pentagon to seek creative out-of-the-box solutions to resolve our electricity woes. To do this, I will highlight in Congress the strong link between adequate power generation and other areas that the U.S. government—like all of us—is focused on and cares about. For example, as I mentioned above, we need adequate power to protect our borders. Adequate power is also critical to operate our schools, maintain our port facilities, and take care of the environment generally.

5. Why should voters choose you?

We need a delegate in Congress who will be a strong advocate for the people and our issues. I have been a lawyer for almost 30 years, and served as a judge of our Superior Court for 10 years. I respectfully believe that this experience, together with my passion for our islands, my deep understanding of the issues, and ability to build and maintain relationships, would make me the strongest advocate for us in Congress. Thank you for your support.

MAKING

From Page 11

the right circumstances for it to pass so we need to be aware of that. Go online and research for yourself at http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d110query.html. Take a look at the other insular areas' representatives such as Eni Faleomavaega (American Samoa), Donna Christensen (Virgin Islands), Madeleine Bordallo (Guam) and Luis Fortuno (Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) and see what they have introduced and where the legislations are. Look at the previous sessions, not only the 110th Congress. Don't get me wrong, legislations are important but realistically, it will take time and most often more than two years. We need help now, not four to six years from now. Our people need to be able to breathe so we can move forward.

Renewable energy is important for us to look into. With the U.S. Congress shifting more and more toward renewable energy to become less dependent on foreign oil, we could benefit but we have to begin planning and actively pursue it. As I have stated before, renewable energy could be an industry that could help contribute to the CNMI not only economically but also educationally. Wind energy has contributed to the economy by fees paid to landowners, creation of new businesses and new jobs. There are federal programs and funding available for renewable energy. Columbia Energy Partners, LLC is a for-profit limited liability corporation established in December 2003 for the purpose of developing wind power electrical generation projects in the Northwest. They received a $500,000 Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant to assist in the construction of a 4.5-megawatt wind power electrical generation facility (Mar-Lu Wind Farm). A gentleman from Idaho received $10,000 in funding to help purchase and install a 20 kW wind turbine for his 1,900-acre farm. The power produced was sold back to Idaho Power through "net metering" arrangement. The U.S. Department of Agriculture helped a family in Rushmore, Minnesota get a five-turbine wind farm with nearly $1 million in grants from the Renewable Energy and Energy Improvement Program. Each member of the family owns a turbine along with an equity investor. The family leased the land from their cousin. As a result of the Energy Independence Act, competitive grants have been established for research and development for renewable energy technologies proposed by institutions of high education, "award competitive National Energy Training Partnerships Grants to enable certain entities to implement training that leads to economic self-sufficiency (Pathways Out of Poverty Demonstration Program) and develop an energy efficiency and renewable energy industries" and amended "the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to make an Express Loan for purchasing a renewable energy system or carrying out an energy efficiency project for a small business concern and to establish a pilot program reducing fees for specified energy efficiency loans," just to name a few. As a result of the 2008 Farm Bill, $1 billion is provided to fund programs in the energy title, creates the Rural Energy for America Program, provides $120 million for critical water and wastewater projects in rural areas, renews critical rural infrastructure programs such as water and waste disposal grants, provides competitive grants to improve and expand farmer's markets and provides $377 million over a 10- year period for pest and disease detection and control.

Please correct me if I am wrong but isn't the NMI already a HUBZone which means Historically Underutilized Business Zone. I believe that Rep. Madeleine Bordallo introduced legislation in the 109th Congress, which was later modified and became Public Law 109-59. Title X subtitle B section 10203 of PL 109-59 amends the Small Business Act of 1958 by adding "…any territory or possession of the United States outside the 48 contiguous States." Check out the Small Business Administration website http://map.sba.gov/hubzone/hzqry.asp?state=MP which states, "Northern Mariana Islands is a U.S. territory/possession that is wholly qualified as a HUBZone."

The economy has been an issue since I've been on the island in 1997. At that time, it was the Asian/ International Monetary Fund problem. Then it was 911, SARS, the pullout of JAL and the garment industry. Now, it's the worldwide housing and credit crisis. No matter what, there will always be some type of economic issue. However, if we think back to even a few years ago, we were facing economic problems but people and businesses were still able to maintain. It wasn't until the increase in CUC rates that people and businesses really began hurting. It was then when people and businesses began relocating and closing. It was CUC that has led us to this point. Let's face it, take out the CUC factor and see if we would be in this dire condition even with all the other outside factors. I believe that without the CUC crisis, our people and businesses would be able to sustain to some degree until there is an upswing in the economy. That is why it is important for us to resolve the CUC matter first. The entire community is gasping to breathe because of CUC's chokehold. We must break free from the grip and be allowed to breath before our entire community collapses.

Lastly, some say, "he lacks experience" but I say experience doesn't guarantee success. Look at where experience has led us. Lack of experience can be a good thing because it makes us ask "Why" and "How" instead of "It won't work" and 'I know better." It can motivate us and motivation leads to hard work and hard work leads to success. Some say, "he's an outsider" but I say my wife (Dora Ulloa Palacios-Won) is local; my kids are local so how can I be an outsider? Please don't judge me for what I am but who I am, a husband, a father, your friend, your neighbor who is willing to make a difference for the betterment of the CNMI. Come this Nov. 4, I humbly ask for your vote of confidence. Have faith, vote Chong M. Won #2. Thank you.

Letters to the Editor

Baseless accusations

Dear Mr. Gregorio Cruz: This is to bring to your attention that your recent action of jumping to conclusion without getting all the facts regarding your concern on *man'amko* is really uncalled for and irrationally irresponsible gesture. I doubt that your organization actually intends to protect the Commonwealth people.

Your accusations are baseless and without merit. Maybe you should ask your mother and father if they are being abused while in the Center. I've worked even on weekends without getting paid to ensure that everything here in the Aging Center is in compliance with the statutes and regulations so the *man'amko* will get all the benefits that is due them.

When you talk about the *man'amko*, you are also talking about me since I am also a *man'amko*. The *man'amko* here at the Center have never been abused and I would not tolerate you accusing me of abusing the *man'amko*.

For a president of the Taotao Tano, you sure don't know how to use civil words or practice good manners. There are two sides to that documentation that you are accusing me of and you better come down here to the Center and see for yourself the wonderful things that I do for the *man'amko*, from preventive health (physician call at the center three times a week), to menu compliance (never short of food), extra (daily excise), computer class, fundraising activities, etc. Perhaps you are forgetting that I also have a right to voice my opinion about you and your organization. Enough with your nonsense.

Yes, the local *man'amko* did sign the resolution but no one was forced nor compelled to sign the petition.

Three weeks prior, the Pew organization was here at the Center gathering signatures from the *man'amko* and even dancing around but I never said anything about that incident. Don't jump to conclusions without even checking the real facts; that seems to be a habit of yours.

Greg, for your information I was with your organization on the day that we went with the same motorcade around the island pushing your cause, and I'm that fool that bought the two cases of hot dogs and buns to help you out after the motorcade. Please don't forget also that I have a right to sue you for libel and defamation of character since your letter to editor was based on senseless accusations.

By the way, who is Taotao Tano? Everyone that I know of pulled themselves out of your organization for the same reason why I'm taking my Taotao Tano sticker down from my car. You started the organization with full momentum, but you will ruin it by getting out of hand.

Rose Mondala
Garapan, Saipan

Now we've got hope

Like many of you, I'm experiencing hard times. Before I started my business, I had nothing. There were times I've been down and out, but managed to bounce back. Now I'm just like so many of you, trying to make ends meet. We all are fed up with the way the CNMI has been managed over the years. We are forgotten by the politicians. I am tired of hearing, 'never mind, it's who you know,' or 'that's just the way it is.' Those days are over. Why are the well-off getting more, while the poor are getting less? I say to you, it doesn't have to be that way anymore. It's time for a change.

We need to slow down and take a look at the all U.S. delegate candidates. Let's read their resumes, their past work performance once in office, and their track record of honesty to the people of the CNMI. Don't be fooled by politicians' tricks. Some of them have used their positions in government to do as they please. Some have even changed laws to help themselves and friends. Read the old newspapers, you might have forgotten some past issues. Some candidates say they were there when the Covenant was signed and adopted 35 years ago. Well, the people thank you, you all have done your duties to the Motherland, but times have changed.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we don't choose the best candidate as our delegate, things will not change. The way some candidates have manage governmental affairs in the past have gotten us nowhere and may prolong our suffering in the future. Why only now is the current Washington Representative saying he can do a better job? The CNMI needed assistance from the federal government a long time ago. I think for him it's not a little too late but a big too late. John Gonzales knows he can do the job and promise us if he wins the U.S. Delegate position, he will continue to come to your homes and hear your concerns or complaints while in office. I believe him. I believe that Gonzales will work in good faith for the all people of the whole CNMI. I am for a new era, a new vision, a new direction. What about you? Now we've got hope with John Gonzales

Willie Brundidge
Kagman, Saipan

Business

Dow jumps nearly 900 as investors seek bargains

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street had another astounding advance Tuesday, with the Dow Jones industrials soaring nearly 900 points in their second-largest point gain ever as late-day bargain hunters stormed into the market. The Dow and the Standard & Poor's 500 index each shot up nearly 11 percent.

There didn't appear to be any one catalyst for the surge that saw the Dow nearly double its gain in the last hour of trading. Many analysts said investors were grabbing up stocks in the belief that Wall Street had fallen too far in recent sessions; the Dow had dropped 500 points in two days. Some said buying early in the day came from anticipation of an interest rate cut Wednesday by the Federal Reserve, and the market just followed its recent pattern of building on its gains or losses in the last minutes of the session.

"There is nothing fundamental that came out today or yesterday that would take it up or down. We're all groping for something meaningful to talk about," said Bob Andres, chief investment strategist at Portfolio Management Consultants. "The market is exhausted from going down."

But given the relentless volatility in the market—out of 20 trading days this month, there have been only two that didn't see the Dow close up or down in triple digits—no one expects that stocks are now headed higher for good. After Wall Street's devastating losses that slashed 2,400 points off the Dow in eight sessions, market veterans warned that the recovery would be rocky, including huge gains followed by huge declines.

"I don't think it will be a sustained move," said Matt King, chief investment officer at Bell Investment Advisors, of Tuesday's surge.

It was clear that investors wanted to buy - they looked past news of a sharp drop in consumer confidence early in the session. The Conference Board said its index of consumer confidence has fallen to a record low 38 in October, well below the 51 analysts expected; with consumer spending accounting for more than two-thirds of economic growth, the reading was the latest in a long line of disappointing data.

The market's reaction was notable because it was investors' anguish over a likely recession that had them selling just days ago. But analysts don't necessarily see that change of heart as a sign of health.

"I would like to hope that a little bit of fear is being replaced by greed at this point," said Kim Caughey, equity research analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group. "I'm not that happy, though. There's no big news out there."

Another key interest rate cut expected from Fed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The worst financial crisis in 70 years has forced the Federal Reserve to employ all the weapons in its arsenal—including cutting interest rates to near historic lows—to try to keep the country from plunging into a deep recession.

Fed policymakers are expected to slash a key interest rate by a half-point, pushing the federal funds rate down to 1 percent, as they wrap up a two-day meeting Wednesday.

That would put the Fed's target for the interest banks charge each other on overnight lows down at level last seen during a 12-month period from June 2003 to June 2004. Before that period, the funds rate had not been that low in 45 years, since Dwight Eisenhower was president.

Economists believe the Fed is prepared to cut rates that low because of the rising fears that the financial turmoil of the past two months is raising the specter of a deep and prolonged recession.

"The Fed is going to send a very strong signal that they will do whatever it takes to restore stability to the economy," predicted Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

The prospect of another sizable rate cut, coming just three weeks a half-point move that was coordinate with a number of countries, sent the stock market soaring on Tuesday, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average up by 889.35 points, its second-biggest point gain in history.

Even if the Fed does fulfill the desires of investors with its action Wednesday, it is not likely to end the turbulence on Wall Street. Analysts are cautioning to be prepared for more stomach-churning days ahead as investors struggle to deal with a severe credit crisis and what could be the worst recession in at least two decades.

A half-point rate cut on Wednesday would push borrowing costs lower for millions of consumer and business loans with banks moving quickly to match the Fed's action by lowering their benchmark prime lending rate from 4.5 percent, where it has been for the past three weeks, down to 4 percent.

The Fed is hoping that the sharply lower rates will help boost economic growth going forward. The government will release its first look at economic activity in the July-September quarter on Thursday and that is expected to show that the gross domestic product shrank at a rate of 0.5 percent in the third quarter.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

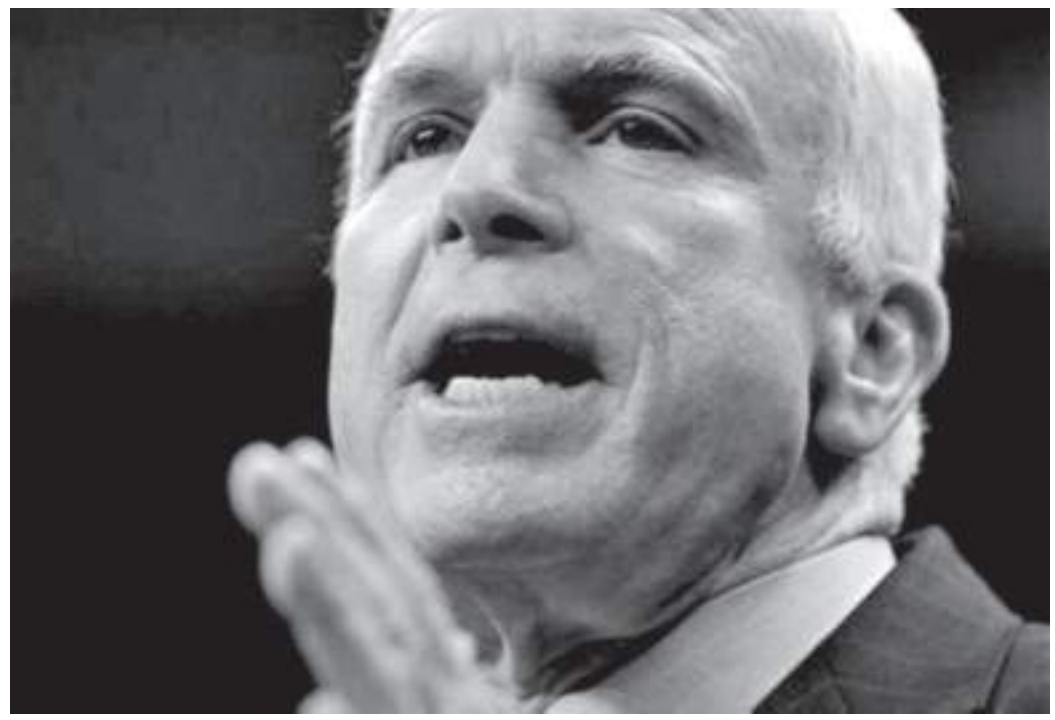
Most Asian markets extend gains after US rally

HONG KONG (AP)—Most Asian stock markets rose Wednesday after a stunning rally on Wall Street as investors awaited possible interest rate cuts from central banks in the U.S. and Japan. Japan's market was by far the best performer: the Nikkei 225 index jumped 589.98 points, or 7.7 percent, to 8,211.90. But elsewhere, the regional rally fizzled by the afternoon as traders cashed in profits amid fresh worries about company earnings. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index, up nearly 5 percent in early trading, trimmed its gain to 1.3 percent after a spectacular 14.4 percent rise the day before. Australia's S&P/ASX200 climbed 1.3 percent. South Korea's index, however, pared its morning gains and dropped 3.6 percent as bank stocks pulled back on fears they may cut dividends after the government guaranteed their foreign currency loans. The region's broader move higher came after a massive overnight advance on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average soared nearly 900 points, or 10.88 percent, to 9,065.12 to its second-largest point gain following rises in Asian and European markets earlier in the day.

Oil bounces off 17-month low to $64 in Asia

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices bounced off a 17-month low Wednesday in Asia as a rally in stock markets around the world boosted investor confidence that the worst of a global economic slowdown and its impact on crude demand has been priced in. Light, sweet crude for December delivery rose $1.91 to $64.64 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract overnight fell 49 cents to settle at $62.73, the lowest closing price since May 15, 2007. Oil investors have been closely tracking equity indexes for signs of market sentiment about how deep and widespread the global downturn will be. They took heart from a rally in stocks that began Tuesday in Asia, followed through to Europe and the U.S. and continued Wednesday. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index jumped 6.9 percent on Wednesday, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index added 3.5 percent while South Korea's benchmark rose 2.5 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average soared nearly 900 points, or 10.88 percent, its second-largest point gain ever.

Nation



AP

Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., speaks at a rally at The Crown Center in Fayetteville, N.C., Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008.

McCain struggles for upset in Pa.; GOP doubts grow

HERSHEY, Pa. (AP—Doubts about John McCain's chances for the presidency grew louder among fellow Republicans on Tuesday as a White House race largely focused on Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania entered its final week.

Even two Republicans once on McCain's short list for vice president sounded skeptical. In a fundraising e-mail on behalf of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Mitt Romney referred to "the very real possibility of an Obama presidency." In the Midwest, Gov. Tim Pawlenty gave a dour assessment of McCain's chances in his state, saying Barack Obama "has a pretty good advantage in Minnesota right now."

Nationally, a poll by the Pew Research Center found Obama with a 16-point lead among registered voters. The survey said Obama had 52 percent and McCain 36 percent, with independent voters supporting the Democrat by a 48-31 margin.

The Nielsen media company reported that both are focusing about three-fourths of their advertising in Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Obama, who had been spending four times as much as McCain on advertising, is now airing only twice as many ads as his rival, the ratings company said.

Those three states are battlegrounds, offering a combined 68 electoral votes on Election Day.

The concentration of firepower comes even as Obama mounts a national advertising campaign that will culminate Wednesday evening with a 30-minute, prime-time commercial on network television. The candidates also planned appearances on cable TV talk shows, including Obama on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

The candidates kicked off their final week of campaigning in the southeastern corner of Pennsylvania, which hasn't supported a Republican presidential candidate in 20 years and where Obama is ahead in the polls. McCain is working for an upset and has Pennsylvania as the linchpin to his victory strategy.

"I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it," McCain told noisy supporters at a rally in this Republican region and home of the world's largest chocolate factory.

Obama's advisers say they are confident of victory in the state. Still, they sent him to rally supporters in Pittsburgh Monday night and to the battleground Philadelphia suburbs on Tuesday. About 9,000 people stood in the mud and a steady, cold rain at Widener University to hear him.

"I just want all of you to know that if we see this kind of dedication on Election Day, there is no way that we're not going to bring change to America," said

Officials: Alleged skinhead plot not fully formed

BELLS, Tenn. (AP)—Two white supremacists charged with plotting to behead blacks across the country and assassinate Barack Obama while wearing white top hats and tuxes were likely too disorganized to carry out the plot, authorities said, and their planning was riddled with blunders.

Paul Schlesselman, 18, of Helena-West Helena, Ark., and Daniel Cowart, 20, of Bells are accused of dreaming up the plan. While authorities say they had guns capable of creating carnage, documents show they never got close to getting off the ground.

Among the blunders: They drew attention to themselves by etching swastikas on a car with sidewalk chalk, only knew each other for a month, couldn't even pull off a house robbery, and a friend ratted them out to authorities.

"Certainly these men have some frightening weapons and some very frightening plans," said Mark Potok, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, who studies the white supremacy movement. "But with the part about wearing top hats ... it gets a bit hard to take them seriously."

Despite making sure the plot was stopped, authorities did not believe Cowart and Schlesselman had the means to carry out their threat to assassinate Obama, said a federal law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

Asked whether the two suspects had Obama's schedule or plans to kill him at a specific time or place, a second law enforcement official who also was not authorized to speak publicly said, "I don't think they had that level of detail."

The two met online about a month ago, introduced by a friend and bound by a mutual belief in white supremacy, according to an affidavit written by a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agent who interviewed them. Together, they chatted about how they could carry out such a terroristic spree, officials said. Schlesselman volunteered a sawed-off shotgun that would be "easier to manuever," and also took a gun from his father, according to an affidavit.

The plot referenced two numbers important to skinhead culture by aiming to take the lives of 88 people, and 14 of them would be beheaded. The number 14 refers to a 14-word phrase attributed to an imprisoned white supremacist: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children" and to the eighth letter of the alphabet, H. Two "8"s or "H"s stand for "Heil Hitler."

DA: Criminal charges possible in boy's Uzi death

BOSTON (AP)—A prosecutor said Tuesday he is investigating whether criminal charges should be filed after an 8-year-old boy accidentally killed himself while firing an Uzi submachine gun at a gun fair in western Massachusetts.

Christopher Bizilj (Bah-SEAL) of Ashford, Conn., shot himself in the head when he lost control of the 9mm micro submachine gun as it recoiled while he was firing at a pumpkin. Police have said the shooting at the Machine Gun Shoot and Firearms Expo at the Westfield Sportsman's Club on Sunday was an accident.

Hampden County District Attorney William Bennett said he is investigating whether the gun fair violated the state's firearms law by allowing the boy to fire the machine gun, and also whether it was "a reckless or wanton act to allow an 8-year-old to use a fully loaded automatic weapon."

"At this point in the investigation I have found no lawful authority which allows an 8-year-old to possess or fire a machine gun," Bennett said in a statement.

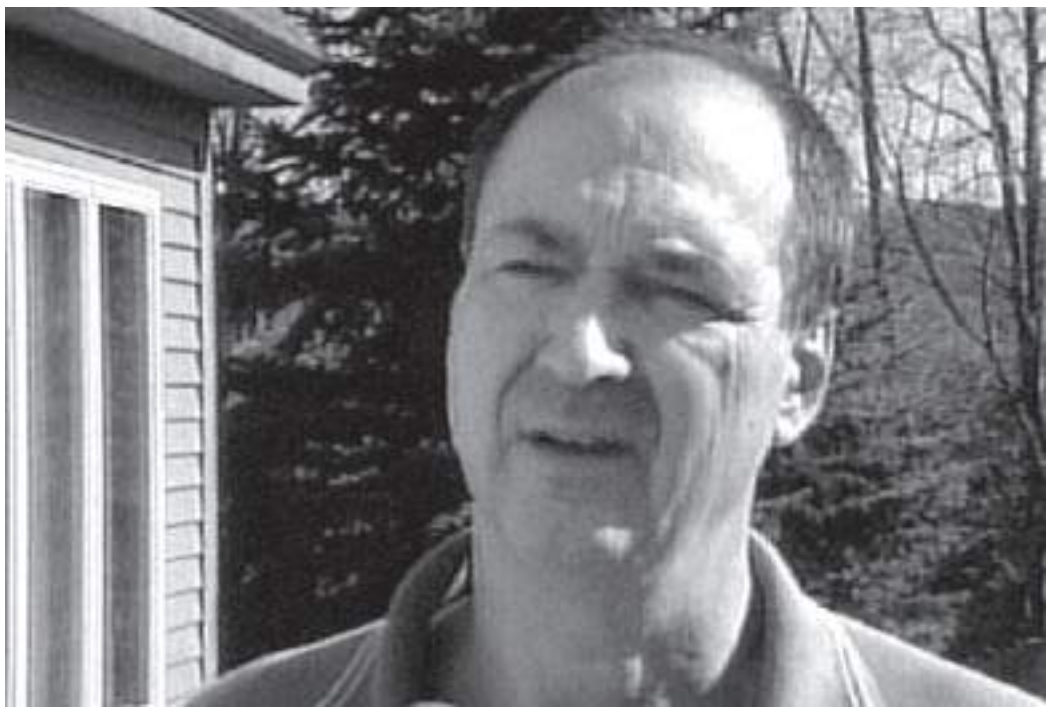
Daniel Vice, senior attorney with the Washington-based Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said his interpretation is that Massachusetts law specifically prohibits "furnishing a machine gun to any person under 18."

"It is unconscionable that the gun fair allowed and encouraged young children to fire machine guns," he said in a statement.

On Monday, Westfield police Lt. Hipolito Nunez said it is legal in Massachusetts for children to fire a weapon if they have permission from a parent or legal guardian and they are supervised by a properly certified and licensed instructor.

The section of the statute that mentions that exception, however, only lists rifles, shotguns and ammunition—and is silent on the use of machine guns.

Bennett did not return calls Tuesday seeking additional comment.



AP

In this image made from video provided by New England Cable News, Charles Bizilj speaks Monday, Oct. 27, 2008, in Ashford, Conn., about his son Christopher, 8, who died Sunday after accidentally shooting himself in the head while firing an Uzi submachine gun under adult supervision at the Westfield Sportsman's Club in Westfield, Mass.

ACROSS THE NATION

Alaskans turning against Stevens after verdict

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Alaskans fondly call longtime Sen. Ted Stevens their "Uncle Ted" for his ability to steer gobs of federal money to his home state, but his conviction in a corruption case Monday had many residents crying: "Throw the bum out." Dave Thibault, of Wasilla, said there was no doubt that the guilty verdict will affect his vote on Nov. 4. "Oh, he is guilty and it is time we change the face of Alaska's politician," he said. Thibault, who has been a North Slope oil workers for 25 years, said it is time someone new represent Alaska in the nation's capital. Stevens has represented Alaska for 40 of its 49 years since statehood in 1959. "Shame, shame. Go down with the rest of them, I guess," Thibault said of Stevens, referring to the VECO Corp. scandal that so far has resulted in corruption convictions for two state lawmakers. "He's tainted now." A federal court jury in Washington, D.C., found Stevens guilty on all seven counts of lying on Senate disclosure forms to conceal $250,000 in gifts and renovations on his Girdwood home from VECO workers.

Detroit's ex-Mayor Kilpatrick jailed for 4 months

DETROIT (AP)—A judge sentenced former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick to four months in jail Tuesday for a sex-and-text scandal, calling him "arrogant and defiant" and questioning the sincerity of a guilty plea that ended his career at City Hall. Kilpatrick declined to speak in court, but his lawyers urged the judge to look at his entire career, not just the crimes that threw local government into disarray for months. The punishment was part of a plea agreement worked out last month. Wayne County Circuit Judge David Groner followed that deal but said Kilpatrick would not get time off for good behavior, potentially up to 20 days in this case. "When someone gets 120 days in jail, they should get 120 days in jail," Groner said. Kilpatrick was taken across the street to the county jail, where he will spend 23 hours a day in a private cell. As he was being led away, he yelled out to supporters: "You all take it easy." They responded: "Be strong, Mayor. We love you, Mayor. We got your back, Mayor." Kilpatrick, a Democrat, admitted lying while testifying last year in a civil lawsuit filed by former police officers who accused him of illegally demoting or firing them.

Police seek suspect in Ark. TV anchorwoman's death

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Police said they have information they hope will lead them to the killer of a television anchorwoman who died days after a brutal attack in her home. Police said they do not yet know the suspect's identity, and would not say what evidence they have linking the person to the attack on Anne Pressly, 26, who died Saturday. Her mother found her badly beaten on the morning of Oct. 20 when Pressly did not answer her regular wake-up call. "We do have an individual. The suspect has not been arrested," police spokesman Sgt. Cassandra Davis said. Reports last week said one of Pressly's credit cards was used Oct. 20 at a service station near downtown Little Rock. Investigators have said she may have been a robbery victim, and that her job did not appear to have had anything to do with the attack. Pressly's purse was missing the morning of the attack. Davis said police wouldn't comment on evidence obtained so far but added, "We hope that we will be able to make an arrest from the information that we have received."

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- JUAN M. SAN NICOLAS and MARIANA D. SAN NICOLAS, Defendants — Civil Action No. 03-0610B — **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Juan M. San Nicolas and Mariana D. San Nicolas in the following described, real property situated in Tanapag, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 018 B 40
Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having Plane Rectangular Coordinates of 57,885.476 meters North and 54,811.1119 meteres East of the Mariana Islands District Coordinate System of 1966.

Thence N 39" 29" 56" E, 72.922 meters to Corners 2;
Thence S 32" 53" 15" E, 32.271 meters to Corners 3;
Thence S 39" 29" 56" W, 63.127 meters to Corners 4;
Thence N 50" 30" 04" W, 30.852 meters to point of beginning;

The above described property contains an area of 2,099 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing No. 018 B 09 and recorded under File No. 89-2639, including all improvement, appurtenances and easements therewith;

AND

Lot No. 018 B 43
Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having Plane Rectangular Coordinates of 57,848.316 meters North and 54,780.487 meteres East of the Mariana Islands District Coordinate System of 1966.

Thence N 39" 29" 56" E, 48.158 meters to Corners 2;
Thence S 50" 30" 04" E, 71.797 meters to Corners 3;
Thence S 39" 29" 56" W, 52.288 meters to Corners 4;
Thence N 44" 51" 32" W, 42.00 meters to point of beginning;

The above described property contains an area of 2,099 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing No. 018 B 09 and recorded under File No. 89-2639, including all improvement, appurtenances and easements therewith;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, October 31, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit, Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the titles and properties; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests Juan M. San Nicolas and Mariana D. San Nicolas in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real properties will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 3rd day of September 2008.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA,
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- FRANCISCO I. BABAUTA, Defendant. — Civil Action No. 06-0216 — **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendant Francisco I. Babuta in the following described real property situated in San Roque, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 001 B 10, containing an area of 752 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 B 00, the original of which was registered with the Land registry as Document No 100, on the 30th day of June, 1970, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, October 31, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit, Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the titles and properties; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Francisco I. Babauta in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real properties will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 3rd day of September 2008.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA,
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA and ESTATE OF MAGDALENA M. MANGLONA Defendants. — Civil Action No. 07-0170 — **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Benjamin T. Manglona and the Estate of Magdalena M. Manglona in the following described real property situated in Tatgua, Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 230 R 01, containing an area of 9,384.50 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 230 R 00, including all existing anfd future improvements on the said property, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, October 31, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit, Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the titles and properties; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Benjamin T. Manglona and the Estate of Magdalena M. Manglona in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real properties will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 3rd day of September 2008.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA,
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

Asia

AP

Residents of Quetta city sit outside their homes as earthquake jolt the city on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008. A government official says at least 80 people have been killed in an earthquake in southwestern Pakistan.

Strong quake hits Pakistan, at least 135 killed

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A strong earthquake struck before dawn Wednesday in southwestern Pakistan, leaving at least 135 people dead, injuring scores more and leaving an estimated 15,000 homeless, officials said.

The death toll was expected to rise as reports arrived from remote areas of Baluchistan, the impoverished province bordering Afghanistan where the magnitude 6.4 quake struck.

The worst-hit area appeared to be Ziarat, where hundreds of mostly mud and timber houses had been destroyed in five villages, Mayor Dilawar Kakar said. Some homes were buried in a landslide triggered by the quake, he said.

"There is great destruction. Not a single house is intact," Kakar told Express News television.

He said the latest death toll stood at 135, and hundreds of people have been injured and some 15,000 were homeless.

"I would like to appeal to the whole world for help. We need food, we need medicine. People need warm clothes, blankets because it is cold here," Kakar said.

In the village of Sohi, a reporter for AP Television News saw the bodies of 17 people killed in one collapsed house and 12 from another. Distraught residents were digging a mass grave in which to bury them.

"We can't dig separate graves for each of them, as the number of deaths is high and still people are searching in the rubble" of many other homes, said Shamsullah Khan, a village elder.

Other survivors sat stunned in the open, with little more than the clothes in which they had been sleeping.

In the nearby town of Kawas, dozens of dead and injured were brought to a hospital in Kawas in Ziarat district. A doctor there, Mohammed Irfan, said the hospital was unable to cope with the number of injured.

With roads blocked by landslides, officials said the army was ferrying troops and medical teams on four helicopters to villages in the quake zone and airlifting a field hospital as well as thousands of tents and blankets to the area.

Report: NKorea's Kim suffers 'serious' setback

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean intelligence indicates that ailing North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has suffered a serious setback and has been hospitalized, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The report in the Dong-a Ilbo newspaper cited an unnamed government official in saying intelligence obtained Sunday suggested "a serious problem" with Kim's health. The report did not elaborate.

Kim, 66, reportedly suffered a stroke and underwent brain surgery in August. North Korea, however, denies he is ill.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service and its Unification Ministry said Wednesday they were aware of the Dong-a report but could not confirm it.

The report came a day after Japan's prime minister told lawmakers in Tokyo that Kim probably is in the hospital, though "not unable" to make decisions as North Korea's leader.

The chief of the National Intelligence Service had told lawmakers Tuesday that Kim was "not physically perfect" but still able to rule the country.

Speculation about the reclusive leader's health grew when he missed a September military parade marking North Korea's 60th anniversary.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China confident envoy will be safe in Taiwan

BEIJING (AP)—China said Wednesday it was confident Taiwan will ensure the safety of a top envoy during an upcoming trip to the island, two weeks after his deputy was roughed up there by pro-independence protesters. Chen Yunlin, chairman of China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, will be the most senior Chinese envoy to visit Taiwan for bilateral talks since the two sides split in 1949. He is scheduled to begin his five-day visit on Monday. Chen's trip comes nearly two weeks after his deputy, Zhang Mingqing, was attacked in the southern Taiwanese city of Tainan. Zhang was pushed and knocked to the ground while about a dozen protesters shouted anti-communist and pro-independence slogans. "We believe that Taiwan will ensure the safety of Mr. Chen. We hope that the discussions will be safe and smooth," said Yang Yi, spokesman of China's Taiwan Affairs Office.

RP Catholic bishops slam massive corruption in Arroyo's government

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Influential Roman Catholic bishops in the Philippines slammed massive government corruption Tuesday and urged the public to help overhaul President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's graft-ridden administration. The criticism aired by the leaders of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines was one of their strongest yet against Arroyo's administration, but it stopped short of urging her to step down. The bishops' group has played a key role in nonviolent "people power" revolts that previously ousted two leaders, including late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, in the last two decades. But efforts by opposition groups to stir such massive protests to oust Arroyo so far have failed to draw considerable crowds. Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the 100-strong bishops' group, said it was up to the public to decide whether to seek a new leader through nonviolent and constitutional means.

World

Judge tosses detainee's confession, citing torture

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—A U.S. military judge barred the Pentagon Tuesday from using a Guantanamo prisoner's confession to Afghan authorities as trial evidence, saying it was obtained through torture.

Army Col. Stephen Henley said Mohammed Jawad's statements "were obtained by physical intimidation and threats of death which, under the circumstances, constitute torture."

Jawad's defense attorney, Air Force Maj. David Frakt, told The Associated Press that the ruling removes "the lynchpin of the government's case."

Guantanamo's chief prosecutor, Army Col. Lawrence Morris, said he recognized how the judge made his decision and needed to study the ruling before making more comments.

Jawad, who was still a teenager at the time, is accused of injuring two U.S. soldiers with a grenade in 2002. He allegedly said during his interrogation in Kabul that he hoped the Americans died, and would do it again.

But Henley said Jawad confessed only after police commanders and high-ranking Afghan government officials threatened to kill him and his family—a strategy intended to inflict severe pain that constitutes torture.

"During the interrogation, someone told the accused, 'You will be killed if you do not confess to the grenade attack,' and, 'We will arrest your family and kill them if you do not confess,' or words to that effect," Henley wrote in response to a defense motion to suppress the evidence. "It was a credible threat."

Frakt said the ruling is a "further disintegration of the government's case," and that the Afghans' descriptions of Jawad's confession were never credible to begin with. He also praised the judge for "adopting a traditional definition of torture rather than making one up."

The judge said torture includes statements obtained by use of death threats to the speaker or his family, and that actual physical or mental injury is not required. "The relevant inquiry is whether the threat was specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering upon another person within the interrogator's custody or control," Henley wrote.

Hina Shamsi, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, welcomed the ruling, but alleged "evidence obtained through torture and coercion is pervasive in military commission cases that, by design, disregard the most fundamental due process rights, and no single decision can cure that."

Tuesday's ruling comes a few weeks after Jawad's former Guantanamo prosecutor, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Darrel Vandeveld, quit after what he described as a crisis of conscience over the ethical handling of cases at the U.S. base.

He said evidence he saw—some of which was withheld from defense attorneys—suggested Jawad may have been drugged before the 2002 attack.

Chavez opponent faces corruption allegations

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela opened a corruption probe of a leading opponent of President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday with less than a month to go before nationwide elections.

Attorney General Luisa Ortega said prosecutors should decide whether to file criminal charges against Gov. Manuel Rosales by year's end, throwing up a cloud that will remain through election day on Nov. 23. Rosales, a two-time governor, is running for mayor of Maracaibo, Venezuela's second-largest city.

Rosales denied any wrongdoing and accused Chavez and his allies of raising false charges to prevent his victory next month.

"They have always dreamed of taking me out of the political game," said Rosales, one of four opposition governors in Venezuela's 23 states. "They cannot win with votes, so they try to win with tricks."

Chavez called for Rosales's imprisonment on Saturday, saying he's involved in a purported assassination plot.

"I have decided to make Manuel Rosales a prisoner," Chavez said. "He cannot continue in office ... He is one of those who wants to see me dead."

The allegations piled up on Tuesday, when Giancarlo Di Martino, a close Chavez ally running to replace Rosales as governor of western Zulia state, accused Rosales of extortion and misusing public funds.

Di Martino also alleged that Rosales was involved in the murder of Julio Soto, an student protest leader shot to death last year, but did not explain why Rosales would be involved in the slaying of a fellow opposition leader.

WORLD BRIEFS

Congolese army claims attack by Rwandan troops

KILIMANYOKA, Congo (AP)—Bombs, rockets and mortars were exploding in eastern Congo, and the Congolese army is claiming it came under attack by troops from neighboring Rwanda. Congo's government has charged that Rwanda's Tutsi-led government sends troops across the nearby border to help the fighters of renegade Gen. Laurent Nkunda. Rwanda denies the charges. The bombardments could be heard by journalists at an army camp in eastern Congo. Jeeps of officers sped along the road stopping to give instructions to soldiers toting rocket launchers and assault rifles. The bombardment appears to be taking place less than five miles from a village where thousands of refugees huddled amid intermittent downpours of rain. Nkunda says he's fighting to protect the region's tiny Tutsi minority. The rebels have vowed to take Congo's eastern provincial capital of Goma.

Lawyer: American, ex-beau indicted in Italy murder

PERUGIA, Italy (AP)—An American college student and her former boyfriend were ordered Tuesday to stand trial in last year's slaying of her roommate, while the judge also convicted an Ivory Coast man in the killing, lawyers said. The judge indicted Amanda Knox, 21, of Seattle and Raffaele Sollecito of Italy on charges of murder and sexual violence in the stabbing death of Meredith Kercher of England, said Francesco Maresca, a lawyer for the victim's family. Trial for the two, who deny wrongdoing, will start Dec. 4. A third suspect, Rudy Hermann Guede of the West African nation of Ivory Coast, was sentenced to 30 years in prison after being convicted on the same charges in a fast-track trial requested by his defense, Maresca said. Prosecutors asked for life in jail. Knox's attorney, Luciano Ghirga, said his client "was quite disappointed" by the ruling. "She is ready to start again," Ghirga told reporters. "The (first) hearing is very close, we have to reorganize our defense line in time."

Environment

Revegetating the Talakhaya watershed

Within the Talakhaya watershed lie some of CNMI's very rare fresh water streams which discharge onto the adjacent reef flats. These coral reefs, like many others around the world, are adapted to clean, freshwater discharge (runoff).

Unfortunately, polluted runoff originates from illegal burning by poachers that hunt deer in the Talakhaya watershed. Burning results in the exposure of barren soils, which are easily eroded during a rain event, and wash down to the ocean. The brown runoff has several negative effects upon coral reef communities, three important ones are listed below.

1. Direct burial of corals and other sessile (non-moving) organisms by sediment particles.

2. Blocking of sunlight penetration. Corals and many other reef organisms need sunlight to photosynthesize. Murky water decreases the amount of energy that the sun can deliver to these organisms.

3. Sediment particles have nutrients attached to them which "fertilize" nearby waters.

Oceanic waters where coral reefs exists are usually oligotrophic (nutrient poor) which is why we can see the beautiful reef structures when we look from high above. Increased nutrients allow millions of phytoplankton (tiny single cell algae) to bloom. This bloom creates murky water and blocks the sunlight from reaching the corals (similar to #2 above). When these millions of tiny phytoplankton die and settle on the coral reef, their decaying bodies provide excess nutrients (fertilizer) to help macroalgae grow. This is not good because it allows the macroalgae to outcompete the corals for space on the reef.

Revegetation and community awareness efforts have already benefited Talakhaya watershed. This summer, 25 Luta Livelihoods volunteers successfully planted 25,000 seedlings in the As Onan and Alesna areas of the Talakhaya watershed. In 2007, 35 community volunteers planted over 22,000 grass and tree seedlings in the As Onan area. In 2006, student and adult volunteers from the Public School System planted 2,500 seedlings. The vegetation will hopefully stabilize the barren soils.

For more information contact the DEQ's Marine Biologist, Peter Houk, or the Talakhaya Watershed Coordinator, Kathleen Herrmann at 664-8500. ***(Author: Peter Houk, DEQ Marine Biologist)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This photo shows parital burial of a *Pavona bipartita* coral colony and encroachment by the macroalgae *Chlorodesmis fastigiata*.

Meet Primo!

CoCo: Good morning and thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk with me.

Primo: My pleasure.

CoCo: So, you have been awarded the coveted title of Flagship Species for the CNMI Pride Campaign. How do you feel?

Primo: I've never felt better! I have been given an opportunity to help promote healthy reefs and I look forward to doing my best. Because my species depends on the reef for our survival, it is a topic near and dear to my heart.

CoCo: You mentioned your species, I have never heard of the Yellow Crowned Butterflyfish.

Primo: (sighs) Yes, most people in the CNMI and around the world have never heard of us. We are actually very rare. My species is endemic to the Marianas…that means this is our home…our ONLY home. The Yellow Crowned Butterflyfish is not found anywhere else in the world.

CoCo: Nowhere else? Wow!

Primo: Yes, that makes us very special. But at the same time, it makes us very vulnerable. The survival of the Yellow Crowned Butterflyfish depends on the survival of the CNMI's reefs.

CoCo: I see. Can you tell us a little about how you were chosen for this job?

Primo: It was tough competition. I was among many other marine creatures. We were then narrowed down to four: the spotted eagle ray, the bumphead parrotfish, the napoleon wrasse, and the yellow crowned butterflyfish.

CoCo: You were in the company of some pretty amazing animals.

Primo: It was an honor to stand among those three.

CoCo: How were you finally chosen?

Primo: The four of us were included in an island wide survey conducted by volunteer NMC students. Nearly 400 people were asked to choose which species they thought would be the best mascot for the CNMI's reefs. All of our photos were included, and people selected their pick.

CoCo: I saw the photos. You looked fabulous.

Primo: Thank you, but I think that the bumphead parrotfish was by far the most photogenic.

CoCo: In the end, what were the results of the survey?

Primo: I came out ahead with 37% of the vote, followed by the bumphead who got 27%.

CoCo: Congratulations!

Primo: Thank you. But I want to remind people that the health of our reefs is important to all marine life…please take good care of it!

CoCo: I understand you have many exciting events coming up; where will you be in the next couple of months.

Primo: I'll be hanging out at the Thursday night market, visiting the popular beach sites on the weekends. I will also be at the Build A Castle Save A Reef event on Nov 22 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel all day.

CoCo: That's exciting. I hope your fans will get to have your autograph. Before you go on your way, do you have with any parting words?

Primo: Healthy Reefs, Healthy Fish!

The CNMI Pride Campaign is brought to you by Coastal Resources Management Office and the Coral Reef Initiative, a partnership of the CNMI's environmental agencies, Coastal Resources Management, the Division of Environmental Quality, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife. For more information about Primo, the Pride Campaign, or for opportunities to help please contact Brooke Nevitt, Pride Campaign Manager and Education and Outreach Coordinator, Coastal Resources Management Office, 664-8320 or pridecnmi@gmail.com.

SHIRLEY'S CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thirty-three volunteers from Shirley's Coffee Shop removed 45 lbs of marine debris along the shoreline of Chalan Laulau beach on Oct. 21. Shirley's Coffee Shop has participated in the DEQ Adopt A Beach program since 2006.

DEQ sets Tank Beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Tank Beach in Kagman.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet with brigade members on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at 8am. Come join us and "Pick it Up!"

Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

This is a cleanup that should not be missed, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

Volunteers removed 1,740 lbs of debris from Coral Ocean Point on Oct. 4. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Is your energy bill scary?

This Halloween, watch out for lurking energy vampires. These are the electronics and adapters that consume electricity when they are not being used. Power adapters and phone chargers are easy vampires to spot, and also easy to slay. Every energy vampire you vanquish saves you money, helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and helps in the fight against climate change.

"EPA encourages everyone to look for vampires in their home and get rid of this energy waste," said Brian McLean, director of EPA's Office of Atmospheric Protection. "Using less energy means less greenhouse gas emissions."

The average U.S. household spends $100 per year to power devices while they are off (or in standby mode). On a national basis, this standby power accounts for more than 100 billion kilowatt hours of annual U.S. electricity consumption and more than $10 billion in annual energy costs.

These simple steps can protect our homes and offices from energy vampires:

Unplugging power adapters or battery chargers when equipment is fully charged or disconnected from the charger.

Using a power strip that can be switched off when electronics and appliances are not in use.

Looking for the Energy Star label when purchasing products. ***(EPA)***

Life & Style

AP: Hudson suspect had June drug arrest

By JOHN O'CONNOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—The convicted felon suspected in the slayings of Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson's mother, brother and nephew was arrested after police allegedly found crack cocaine in his car in June, but authorities declined to return him to prison on a parole violation, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

A judge dismissed the charge for lack of probable cause in July, but under the strict rules of the state's parole program, William Balfour could have gone back to prison just for the arrest.

No one has been charged in the shooting deaths of Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, her brother, Jason Hudson, and 7-year-old nephew Julian King, but Balfour has been named as a suspect. Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis said Tuesday he is confident the case will be solved.

Balfour—Julian's stepfather and the estranged husband of Hudson's sister—served seven years for attempted murder and vehicular hijacking. Court records show that in 1998 Balfour stole a Chevrolet Suburban and, with the vehicle's owner clinging to the top, intentionally rammed it into a light pole, fence and iron gate.

According to a Chicago police report, officers pulled Balfour over June 19 after hearing gunshots and seeing his car moving at a high rate of speed. Inside the vehicle, police said, they found a rock of cocaine with a street value of about $100 on the driver's seat.

Balfour's parole history report indicates a parole supervisor declined to issue a warrant to revoke Balfour's parole after his arrest for possession of cocaine.

"Per supervisor ... no warrant," the report reads. "Agent to monitor offender, impose sanctions."

Corrections Department spokesman Derek Schnapp said officials determined "the evidence that was presented during that time wouldn't have necessarily warranted a violation."

Court records do not indicate the reason a judge found no probable cause for the drug arrest.

A felony arrest usually is enough for Corrections to revoke parole, said Thomas Peters, a Chicago criminal defense attorney who represents parolees.

"Even though the criminal case is dismissed does not mean that you necessarily get a pass on a parole violation because the standard of proof is much less," Peters said.

Peters added, however, that officials also would have considered Balfour's fairly clean record as a parolee and that he apparently still had a job. In addition, he said, jail and prison overcrowding often play a role in determining whether parole is revoked.

Donerson, 57, and Jason Hudson, 29, were found in their home Friday afternoon. The body of Julian, who lived with the other victims, was found in the back of an SUV on Chicago's West Side on Monday. Authorities declared his death a homicide Tuesday but would not say how long he had been dead.

In a message posted on her MySpace.com page Monday, Julian's mother thanked people for their prayers and said her son's "lil soul is at ease."

"I take comfort in knowing that Julian is with my mother and my brother and most of all the Lord and now he's my angel he's protecting," Julia Hudson wrote.

Jennifer Hudson, who won a best-supporting-actress Oscar last year for "Dreamgirls," has thanked fans for their support on her MySpace page but has been in seclusion in Chicago.

Around the time the first bodies were found, Balfour's parole agent had reached him by phone after Balfour missed a meeting with him that day. Balfour told the agent he was "baby-sitting on the West Side of Chicago," according to internal parole records.

The agent said he thought he heard a child in the background during the call. Balfour was taken into custody later Friday.

The Illinois Department of Corrections issued a warrant for Balfour on Saturday for violating terms of his parole by possessing a weapon and failing to attend anger management counseling and a substance abuse program, according to his parole history report.

Criminal charges can send parolees back to prison and keep them there even if the counts are ultimately dropped. A board that reviews such cases after parolees are sent back to prison relies on a preponderance of the evidence, a lower standard than in court. The board considers the violence of the original crime, the parole agent's recommendation, the arrest report, the parolee's adjustment and his attitude during a follow-up interview in prison, among other things.

AP
Crosses are seen for Darnell Donerson, her son Jason Hudson and grandson, 7-year-old Julian King, outside Donerson's home in Chicago on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008.

Death of Hudson's nephew ruled homicide

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago authorities say the 7-year-old nephew of Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Cook County spokesman Sean Howard tells The Associated Press that in Tuesday's autopsy the county's medical examiner ruled Julian King's death a homicide.

Howard declined to say where the child suffered wounds or how long he had been dead, citing an ongoing Chicago police investigation.

Julian's body was found Monday in a white SUV, three days after the bodies of Hudson's mother and brother were discovered in their home on the city's South Side.

An Amber Alert was issued for Julian on Friday.

Booker T. and the MGs join Musicians Hall of Fame

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Guitarist Duane Eddy picked his rumbling "Peter Gunn" instrumental and Rolling Stone Keith Richards jammed with The Crickets on "Not Fade Away" as a host of musicians and producers were honored during the Musicians Hall of Fame induction ceremony Tuesday.

Richards, who formally inducted The Crickets, best known as Buddy Holly's band, said that without them "you probably wouldn't have the Beatles, and you wouldn't have the Stones."

"Here was a unit that could operate together, and it turned us all on," said Richards, who also sat-in with the group for "Peggy Sue" and "That'll Be the Day." "Without them we would be nowhere. The whole idea of any of us anywhere else sprung from this idea of these guys we loved."

Joining Eddy and the Crickets as new inductees were the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section, Booker T. and the MGs, the Memphis Horns, rock producer/musician Al Kooper and Nashville producer Billy Sherrill.

"There simply wouldn't be a music business or hit records without them," said Barbara Mandrell, who hosted part of the ceremony.

Eddy, a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, called his induction an "honor above honor" and joked, "All of the wives of the musicians are happy because now they have a place to put their old junk."

Formed in 1967, the Alabama-based Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section played on hundreds of recordings by artists such as Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, Paul Simon, The Staple Singers and Bob Seger.

Kid Rock joined them for Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll" while former "American Idol" contestant Melinda Doolittle sang Franklin's "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

'Milk' premiere brings stars to SF's Castro

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—It was only fitting that "Milk," the film about Harvey Milk's life and death, premiere Tuesday night in the Castro.

Milk, San Francisco's first openly gay leader who was slain 30 years ago, used to call himself "the Mayor of Castro Street," referring to the main drag through the neighborhood he represented on the Board of Supervisors and the center of the city's gay and lesbian community.

The world premiere of his biopic brought considerable star power to Milk's beloved Castro Theatre, including director Gus Van Sant and stars Sean Penn, Josh Brolin, Emile Hirsch and Diego Luna. The film follows Milk's rise to office and his and Mayor George Moscone's assassination at City Hall by fellow Supervisor Dan White in 1978.

Van Sant said he had been talking about making this film for 18 years.

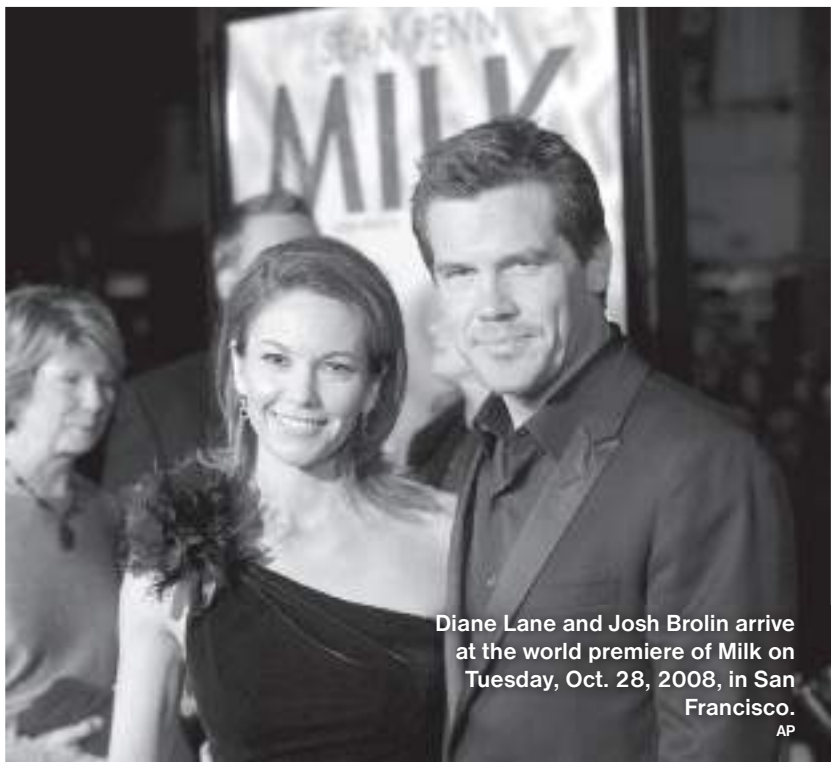
"He's an American hero," Van Sant said. "He's a great example of a man representing his community and his city."

Milk received another tribute earlier in the day, when a historic streetcar featured in the film was dedicated to him. The supervisor had been a champion of public transportation.

Tuesday night's premiere also brought out many of Milk's old friends who helped usher in the gay rights movement that has led, a generation later, to a fight over the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Gay rights activist Cleve Jones, played in the film by Emile Hirsch, said Milk would have been thrilled at the film but angry that the fight over civil rights continued. He pointed across the street, where hundreds were rallying against Proposition 8, a Nov. 4 ballot measure that would rewrite the California constitution to deny same-sex couples the right to marry.

"Harvey would be angry," Jones said, "and he'd still be fighting."



Diane Lane and Josh Brolin arrive at the world premiere of Milk on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008, in San Francisco.
AP

ABC out of Obama half-hour campaign ad buy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A half-hour Barack Obama campaign ad will blanket the major broadcast networks Wednesday night—except for ABC.

Attempting to protect its struggling Wednesday lineup, ABC tried to reach an agreement with the Obama campaign to air the commercial on a different night, according to people familiar with the discussions who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

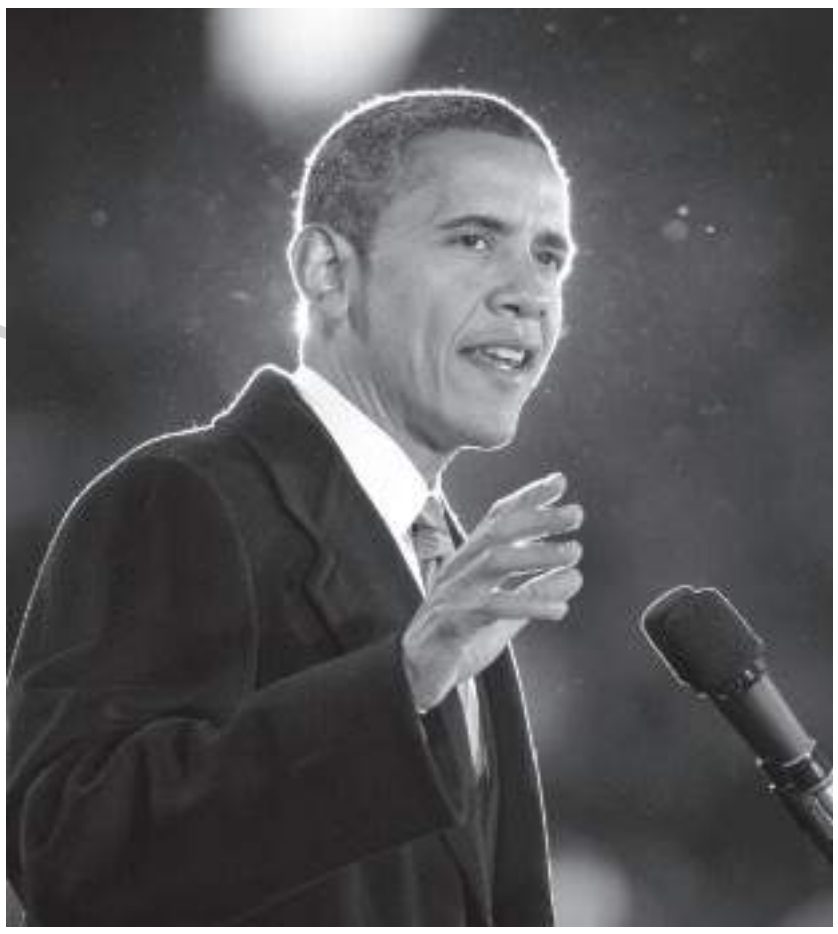
ABC had a change of heart, but by the time it decided to make the 8 p.m. EDT Wednesday slot available for the Democratic presidential candidate's spot, his campaign had already finalized the ad buy, the people said. ABC will air an episode of the hourlong "Pushing Daisies" at that time as scheduled.

The Obama campaign bought time on CBS, NBC and Fox for $1 million per network. In Fox's case, the ad will precede the resumption of rain-suspended Game 5 of the World Series in Philadelphia.

Fox decided to pre-empt its World Series pre-game show for the Obama spot and will start its baseball coverage after the commercial's 8:30 p.m. conclusion.

The 30-minute spot, which was announced in early October, will air six days before the election between Obama and Republican candidate John McCain. It is also scheduled to run on Univision, BET, MSNBC and TV One.

Described by the Obama campaign as a "program," the half-hour will present "the specifics of Obama's plans to turn the economy around and get the country back on track," according to a statement from campaign spokesman Nick Shapiro.



AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks at a rally at Harbor Park in Norfolk, Va., Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008.

Short political spots are the traditional way for politicians to communicate with voters. But Obama's campaign has deep pockets for the costly ad buy that allows him to make a closing argument nationwide: his fundraising has topped $600 million.

ABC hasn't been left out of the Obama campaign budget. From Oct. 8-24, the campaign purchased about $1.8 million worth of commercial time on the network's schedule, including prime-time and morning spots, according to ABC.

"Pushing Daisies" is among many shows trying to rebound from the Hollywood writers strike that disrupted the 2007-08 TV season. ABC's Wednesday night lineup, which also includes "Private Practice" and "Dirty Sexy Money," has struggled to capture viewers.

Authors, publishers settle suit against Google

NEW YORK (AP)—Eager to cool the debate over copyrighted text online and anxious to make some money, Google and the publishing industry announced Tuesday that they have settled their three-year legal battle over the Internet giant's book search program.

Under an agreement reached by Google, the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers, librarians and the public will have an easier time tracking down millions of out-of-print books. At the same time, Google and the book business will have greater opportunities for online sales.

"We're trying to create a new structure where there will be more access to out-of-print books, with benefits both to readers and researchers and to the rights holders of those books - authors and publishers," Richard Sarnoff, chairman of the publishers association, said Tuesday in an interview.

"This is an extraordinary accomplishment," Paul N. Courant, university librarian for the University of Michigan, said in a statement. "It will now be possible, even easy, for anyone to access these great collections from anywhere in the United States."

Under the Google Print Library Project, snippets from millions of out-of-print, but copyrighted books have been indexed online by Michigan and other libraries. Google has called the project, which also scans public domain works, an invaluable chance for books to receive increased exposure.

But in a class-action suit filed in 2005, the Authors Guild alleged that Google was "engaging in massive copyright infringement." Within weeks, publishers also sued, citing the "continuing, irreparable and imminent harm publishers are suffering ... due to Google's willful (copyright) infringement to further its own commercial purposes."

The settlement expands the amount of text to be scanned, makes it available for free online at "designated" libraries, available for subscription for colleges and universities, and allows readers to pay for full online access of copyrighted works.

Google is to contribute $125 million, including about $34.5 million for a nonprofit Book Rights Registry that will store copyright information and coordinate payments. Google will also pay for the millions of copyrighted books already scanned - $60 per complete work to the rights holder - and for the legal fees of the Authors Guild and publishing association. Any sales, subscription and advertisement revenue that occur through the search program will be divided 63 percent and 37 percent, respectively, between the copyright holders and Google.

"This may be the biggest book deal in publishing history," guild executive director Paul Aiken said Tuesday.

If approved by the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, the settlement will end a conflict that had been closely followed by the publishing industry as it examines how copyright law should work on the Internet and whether sales are hurt or harmed by access to digital text. Authors and publishers once strongly resisted free online books, but over the past year, they have softened. During the year, entire works have been made viewable and even downloadable for free, including Charles Bock's novel, "Beautiful Children," and works by Paulo Coelho and Neil Gaiman.

The court is expected to rule on the agreement by next summer.

Since emerging as the Internet's most influential and profitable company, Google has fended off a variety of claims alleging that some of its success has been on built the legally protected work of others.

News organizations have either filed lawsuits or threatened legal action against Google for including snippets of copyright stories on its site. Companies have also sued Google for selling the right to show advertisements tied to a trademarked term entered into its search engine. In 2005, The Associated Press and Google disagreed on intellectual property issues, but were able to reach an amicable business solution in January 2006.

Google still faces an even bigger copyright battle over its popular video-sharing site, YouTube. Viacom Inc. is seeking at least $1 billion in damages in a lawsuit alleging that YouTube has illegally profited by tens of thousands of pirated clips from copyrighted shows like "South Park," "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "MTV Unplugged."

Obama makes time again for 'The Daily Show' spot

CHESTER, Pa. (AP)—Gotta make time to laugh in a campaign—and court the youth vote.

In the midst of a mad dash toward the election, Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama will make time Wednesday to appear on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" with its host, Jon Stewart.

The satirical news review, which covers the election under the banner of "Indecision 2008," offers candidates a chance to show off their ability to be humorous if they can respond off the cuff.

Stewart also tends to put candidates on the spot on news of the day.

Obama will tape his appearance via satellite during a campaign swing in Florida on Wednesday. The segment is scheduled to air at 11 p.m. EDT.

This will be Obama's fourth time on the show. He last appeared on April 21, the eve of the Democratic primary in Pennsylvania.

Obama's Republican competition, John McCain, has been a guest on Stewart's show, too.

Both candidates will be making the most of TV on Wednesday. Obama has bought 30 minutes of prime time to make the case for his candidacy and discuss the economy; the program will air on CBS, NBC and Fox. McCain will be interviewed on CNN's "Larry King Live."

1st major Christie's punk auction set for NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Never mind the auction block—here's the Sex Pistols.

Memorabilia from some of punk rock's biggest acts and seminal moments—including a scrawled flier for one of the Clash's first shows and publicity photos signed by the Sex Pistols—is headed for a Nov. 24 Christie's auction.

The event, announced Tuesday, includes more than 120 records, photos and promotional pieces for such punk, garage rock and new wave legends as the Velvet Underground, Patti Smith, the Ramones, David Bowie, Blondie, the Cure and the Smiths.

The auction is Christie's first to focus on punk mementos, signaling the collectible status of a brash, anti-authoritarian rock movement that largely thumbed its nose at posterity.

"We understand that tastes change, tastes mature," said Christie's pop-culture chief Simeon Lipman. "Ten years ago, punk memorabilia probably wouldn't be something we'd be auctioning here. But now, people of a certain age have a certain ability to splurge on this material."

Should they care to, highlights include a rare poster for a 1976 Ramones concert in London widely credited with helping inspire such British punk titans as the Clash and the Sex Pistols and a flier for a show later that year featuring the latter two bands and the Buzzcocks.

Other prime finds: a copy of the Sex Pistols' first press release and a 1966 promotional packet in which an up-and-comer called David Jones promulgated his new last name: Bowie.

The various punk items are expected to fetch between $300 and $6,000 apiece.

The items generally weren't designed to last for decades, making the few that have survived all the more tantalizing, Lipman said.

Even when the global financial meltdown is sapping a once-raging art market, "with pop-culture items, there's sort of a nostalgia that drives it. It's not necessarily a need to invest—it's 'that's cool,'" he said.

The auction also features artist-designed toys and several big-ticket classic-rock collectibles, such as the portable organ John Lennon played in the Beatles' indelible 1965 appearance at Shea Stadium. Drawing a then startling 55,000 fans, it ushered in the era of stadium-size rock concerts.

The instrument was broken during the show and quickly traded in at an Atlanta music shop, where the owner realized its significance and held onto it, Lipman said. The now-functioning organ is expected to fetch $150,000 to $200,000.

AP

This photo of a promotional poster for the 1977 Virgin Records' single" God Save The Queen," by "The Sex-Pistols," designed by Jamie Reid, was released by Christie's Auction House, in New York, Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008.

Reeves takes stand, says he didn't run into pap

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Keanu Reeves and the paparazzo who's suing him took turns on the witness stand Tuesday, offering different accounts of an incident the photographer said left him seriously injured.

Reeves told jurors in the civil case that he moved his Porsche forward slowly to try to get the paparazzo, Alison Silva, to move out of his way. Reeves had just finished visiting a relative in Rancho Palos Verdes in March 2007 and had been followed by Silva from the Sunset Strip.

Reeves emphatically told jurors he did not hit Silva with his bumper.

Silva testified the opposite, saying the bumper of Reeves' Porsche hit his knee and sent him reeling backward. He then fell and contends his wrist was seriously injured, limiting his ability to work.

"What really happened, the car hit me, and I went backward and tried to protect myself," Silva said.

Silva's testimony was interrupted by a court recess. He will retake the stand on Wednesday, when Reeves' attorney will have a chance to question him.

He is suing Reeves for lost wages and medical expenses. A judge has already barred him from seeking punitive damages.

The 28-year-old Brazilian told jurors he wasn't really paying attention to Reeves' car but trying to get a shot of the

AP

In this Oct. 1, 2008 file photo, Keanu Reeves arrives at Target Presents AFI Night at the Movies in Los Angeles.

actor. He said he thought Reeves would simply drive around him.

But the "Matrix" star said Silva was in his way and refused to move. Gesturing with his hands throughout his hour-long testimony, Reeves said he tried to move the car forward slowly, but that he was sure he didn't hit Silva.

"My intention was to show I had the right of way," Reeves said.

The actor testified he saw Silva's feet get tangled before he fell to the ground. Reeves then parked his car, tried to summon aid and then came out to check on the photographer.

Tuesday's testimony offered some insight into the brinksmanship that Reeves and Silva employed the evening of the incident.

Silva followed Reeves to a residential neighborhood about 30 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, staying several car lengths back to avoid detection, he said. He waited for about an hour for Reeves to emerge from a building, hoping the actor would come out with a new girlfriend.

Instead, Reeves came out alone, with his hair in his face and his eyes pointed down. Reeves said he was trying to keep Silva from getting a usable shot.

"He was coming up to me as a paparazzo taking my picture," Reeves said. "To me, it wasn't great that he was there."

Photos introduced into evidence show Reeves with long hair flowing over his face. One image after he got behind the wheel showed about half of Reeves' face with the rest obscured by hair.

Silva acknowledged none of those were sellable images of Reeves, who he called a "shark" - a paparazzi code for a celebrity who isn't often photographed.

"This is the worst picture I can get," he said of his images. He told jurors he moved in front of Reeves' car to try to get a better shot, and seconds later, dropped his camera and tumbled to the ground.

What happened next will be the subject of testimony that could continue through Friday.

Reeves' attorney said in opening statements on Monday that Silva repeatedly changed his story the night of the accident.

Reeves was at times sarcastic while being questioned by Silva's attorney. When asked whether he tried to motion Silva out of the way or tell him to move, Reeves said no.

"He was in front of a started car," the actor said. "It's common sense to me."

When the attorney asked whether Reeves could really see enough of the front of his car to know he didn't hit Silva, the actor replied that he could see Silva's knees. "I can't read my license plate," he added.

He also took a jab at Silva's images, telling jurors they were "darker than what it was."

Silva, who was a full-time paparazzo for only about six months before his run-in with Reeves, told jurors he was having problems that night with his flash and was only able to take a handful of pictures.

While most of Tuesday's testimony focused on the incident, Reeves' attorney did take some time to let the actor rattle off some of his credits. Asked to name some of his favorite movies that he had appeared in, Reeves singled out about seven, including "The Matrix," "Speed," "My Own Private Idaho" and "Dracula."

Court extends Spears' conservatorship indefinitely

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' father will maintain indefinite control of her personal and financial affairs after a court commissioner on Tuesday extended the arrangement beyond 2008.

The conservatorship, which had been set to expire Dec. 31, also allows the people controlling Spears' affairs - a group that includes father Jamie Spears and several attorneys - some say in her professional career.

It's a move the singer apparently approves: A court-appointed attorney said the details had been explained to the 26-year-old and she agreed not to oppose it.

Spears could petition later to have the conservatorship removed, but the court's order otherwise constitutes a lifetime arrangement, a court information officer said. Attorneys for Jamie Spears declined to comment after the hearing.

Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Reva Goetz said she was granting the permanent conservatorship in part because Britney Spears has shown she is "susceptible to undue influence."

Based on the attorneys' recommendations and other evaluations of the singer, Goetz said making conservatorship permanent was "necessary and appropriate."

The move came after a lengthy closed-chambers meeting, and follows a recent medical evaluation of the singer. Jamie Spears has had control over his daughter's affairs since February after she had several high-profile incidents of erratic behavior and a pair of hospitalizations.

It came on the same day that a Florida court case flared up in Los Angeles. Attorneys for one of Spears' former managers suing the singer in Orlando wanted to force her to undergo a deposition.

That move was blocked after Jamie Spears and his attorneys sought a protective order against his daughter answering questions. Goetz approved the protective order through at least February.

Attorneys for the manager, Johnny Wright, argued in court filings that Spears seems well enough to record new music and is poised to embark on a publicity and concert tour for her new album, which will be released in December on her 27th birthday.

AP

In this Sept. 7, 2008, file photo, Britney Spears poses with her awards backstage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

The filings argued that Spears should also be considered healthy enough to undergo sworn testimony, but Goetz disagreed.

That underscores at least one benefit of the conservatorship for Spears: a shield from some legal actions.

During Spears' misdemeanor trial for driving without a license, Jamie Spears testified on his daughter's behalf, but refused to allow her to take the witness stand. The singer was not required to testify, but her attorney asked Jamie Spears during the proceedings whether she could; the father said no.

Spears may also make a renewed effort to gain more visitation with her young sons. Her criminal defense attorney said Spears wanted to regain custody of her children, and on Tuesday the conservatorship's attorneys agreed to maintain a retainer for the singer's divorce attorney.

Until at least next year, Spears won't have to give statements in the Orlando case. It is unclear exactly how much money is at stake in the Florida case, but the initial suit claims Wright was not paid commissions on four records and a share of a $7 million advance, among other fees.

Spears was close to losing that case earlier this year. She had failed to respond to the lawsuit after it was filed and Wright sought a default judgment. Before a final judgment in his favor could be obtained, attorneys for the conservatorship stepped in.

Model Carol Alt testifies in claim against ex

NEW YORK (AP)—Carol Alt had lots of good things to say about former hockey player Ron Greschner when she testified in federal court Tuesday about their 18-year marriage, but the good vibe wasn't enough to end their dispute over money earned in a business venture.

The 47-year-old actress-model recalled telling Greschner as they discussed money after separating in 1997: "My career's on the way down. Can you just be fair?"

She said she completely trusted the former New York Rangers defenseman, who handled her finances until 1999.

"I loved Ronnie always," she told Judge Colleen McMahon, who will announce her verdict in the civil case on Wednesday. "He was lovely with me. I had no reason to worry. ... He was the most important person in my adult life."

Alt, who has appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated's swimsuit issue and on TV shows including "King of the Hill" and "The Apprentice," sued Greschner for $1 million after seeing him in January 2007 at a Rangers game and inquiring about their joint investment in a water filtration business.

The business had been sold 10 years earlier, though Greschner said he did not owe Alt money because profits that might have triggered a payout under their separation agreement were swallowed by taxes.

Greschner, 53, testified that he acted fairly according to the terms of their divorce settlement.

Greschner, since remarried, lives in West Palm Beach, Fla., and is raising three boys, aged 6, 8, and 12, and two girls, aged 3 and 5. He did not have any children with Alt, who lives in Manhattan.

Outside court, he said he holds season tickets to Rangers games and likes to take his children along, though he is kept busy in Florida with several businesses related to real estate and a sports memorabilia company.

He said he's feeling the effects of his age after suffering at least four concussions as a player and breaking six ribs doing work around his house two years ago.

"I'm 53 going on 78," he said.

Alt has appeared on hundreds of magazine covers since the 1980s, including the 1982 Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition. Her movies include Howard Stern's "Private Parts."

AP

Actress and model Carol Alt arrives at Manhattan federal court for a hearing in a suit against her ex- husband and former New York Rangers hockey star Ron Greschner, Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008, in New York.

Barenaked Ladies' Page gets reduced drug charges

AP

Steven Page, left, of the band The Barenaked Ladies leaves court on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008 in Fayetteville, N.Y.

FAYETTEVILLE, N.Y. (AP)—A drug charge against Barenaked Ladies singer-guitarist Steven Page was significantly reduced Tuesday by an upstate New York court.

The felony charge was reduced to a misdemeanor and the 38-year-old musician was given what's called an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, which means the charges will be dismissed if he stays out of trouble for six months.

Page was arrested in July while visiting girlfriend Christine Benedicto and another woman at their suburban Syracuse apartment.

Benedicto and another woman, Stephanie Ford, were charged with misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance. They also had the charge adjourned in contemplation of dismissal; marijuana possession charges against them also were dropped.

Page apologized to his family and fans after his brief appearance in Fayetteville Village Court .

"I'm grateful ... for this opportunity to further prove myself as a productive and law-abiding member of society. I look forward to the next six months as a period of healing and growth," Page said, reading from a statement.

Page did not take any questions.

"It has meant a great deal for me to be shown the impact I have on others' lives ... I am deeply moved and thankful," Page said. "I also apologize to all those I have hurt and embarrassed during this episode. Respect, responsibility I have earned over the course of my life and my career thus far are important to me, and I am moving forward from this with gratitude and with hope."

Page had faced up to 5 1/2 years in state prison if he had been convicted of the original charge against him, a felony fourth-degree criminal possession count.

Defense attorney Mark Mahoney said prosecutors agreed to reduce the charges against Page because of his lack of a prior criminal record and because lab analyses showed that the drugs were "lower in quantity and lower in quality" than first suspected.

Page's arrest came after the band, known for its clean-cut image and cross-generational appeal, released a new album for children titled "Snacktime," a collection of two dozen original children's songs.

The band was formed nearly 20 years ago in Toronto. It has released 12 albums, producing hits such as "If I Had $1,000,000," "Brian Wilson" and "Too Little, Too Late." The group is known for its whimsical lyrics and comedic banter on stage.

Cloris Leachman voted off 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cloris Leachman's silly antics are over on "Dancing with the Stars." The outspoken actress and her professional partner, Corky Ballas, were eliminated Tuesday from ABC's popular dancing competition.

The pair received the judges' lowest score - 15 out of 30 - for their cha-cha routine Monday. After viewer votes were combined with the judges' scores, the competition's oldest - and most spontaneous - performer was sent home.

"I'm not leaving," the 82-year-old Oscar-winning actress declared before she was dismissed.

"I'm afraid you are," host Tom Bergeron responded.

In recent weeks, the judges had been gunning for Leachman, who consistently received low scores but remained in the competition thanks to viewer votes. Carrie Ann Inaba told Leachman after her cha-cha Monday that she was sad singer Toni Braxton was eliminated last week instead of Leachman. The funnywoman seemed to let the comment roll off her back.

"I know you didn't mean what you said, and I love you," she told Inaba before she departed.

Julianne Hough was missing from the dance floor Tuesday. The 20-year-old professional dancer and country music singer who's partnered with actor Cody Linley, had surgery Tuesday to remove her appendix. Linley will be paired with professional dancer Edyta Sliwinska, who was previously partnered with comedian Jeffrey Ross, while Hough recuperates.

"Her operation went as planned," Linley said on the show. "She's at home and resting."

Other celebrities remaining in the competition include TV personality Brooke Burke, singer Lance Bass, former NFL star Warren Sapp, Olympian Maurice Greene and actress Susan Lucci.

Braxton, Ross, chef Rocco DiSpirito, reality TV star Kim Kardashian and actor Ted McGinley were previously dismissed. Olympian Misty May-Treanor dropped out of the competition after rupturing her tendon during a rehearsal.

AP

This image provided by ABC-TV shows Cloris Leachman and her partner Corky Ballas after tallying the judges' and viewers' votes from a night of Hustle, Jitterbug, Salsa and West Coast Swing.

'DWTS' pro Julianne Hough to have appendix removed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The pain that sent Julianne Hough from the "Dancing with the Stars" ballroom to the hospital turned out to be more serious than a stomachache—and it will keep her off the dance floor.

The 20-year-old professional dancer and country music singer, who's partnered with "Hannah Montana" actor Cody Linley on ABC's popular dancing competition, will undergo minor surgery Tuesday to remove her appendix, according to a statement posted on her Web site Monday.

"I'm actually going into surgery tomorrow to remove my appendix, but everything is OK," Hough said on the show Monday after performing a samba routine with Linley. "I'm going to hopefully be back if everything goes as planned next week."

The two-time "Dancing with the Stats" champion went to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center following last week's live results show and later said she had a stomachache and was feeling fine.

If Linley isn't eliminated Tuesday, co-host Samantha Harris announced he will be paired with professional dancer Edyta Sliwinska, who was previously partnered with comedian Jeffrey Ross, the first celebrity eliminated this season.

Hough has been diagnosed with endometriosis, a common condition in which tissue from the uterus lining grows outside the uterus, causing painful cysts and possible infertility. The growths can appear on the surfaces of organs in the pelvis or abdomen. Hough said she just found out she had the condition.

Michael Caine to co-host Nobel Concert

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Michael Caine will co-host the 2008 Nobel Peace Concert honoring this year's laureate, organizers said Tuesday.

The 75-year-old two-time Oscar winner will host the Dec. 11 show with Scarlett Johansson.

Caine

The show is headlined by Diana Ross and includes Feist, Dierks Bentley, Julieta Venegas and Seun Kuti.

The selection of Caine was exclusively released to The Associated Press by organizers a day ahead of the general announcement. Johansson's role as co-host was announced a week ago.

The concert has in the past been shown on television in 100 countries and is the most popular event on the Nobel calendar.

Caine won the Academy Award as best supporting actor in 1986's "Hannah and Her Sisters" and 1999's "The Cider House Rules." He and Johansson appeared together in the 2006 film "The Prestige."

Former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari won the coveted prize for his peace efforts on several continents over many decades. The Nobel concert is held the day after the Nobel peace awards ceremony.

CW network exploring 'Melrose Place' remake

NEW YORK (AP)—Having done well with a remake of "Beverly Hills 90210" this season, the CW network is considering a remake of that show's spinoff, "Melrose Place."

The CW and the studio CBS Paramount Network Television are exploring whether to put the remake in development for the 2009-10 TV season, network spokesman Paul Hewitt said Tuesday.

The new "Beverly Hills 90210" isn't the cultural phenomenon of the original, but it has improved the CW's performance among women aged 18-to-34 by 46 percent over its Tuesday time slot a year ago. That's the youthful audience that the CW is trying to attract to establish itself.

"Melrose Place" aired on Fox from 1992 to 1999, a primetime soap about a mythical Los Angeles locale. Heather Locklear, Andrew Shue, Courtney Thorne-Smith and Marcia Cross were among its stars. It was created by Darren Star.

The relative success of "90210" and "One Tree Hill" this fall have helped the CW stave off rumors that it might fold.

AP

This 1995 photo shows the cast of "Melrose Place", from top left; Heather Locklear, Grant Show, Doug Savant and Thomas Calabro. Seated from left; Andrew Shue, Courtney Thorne-Smith, Laura Leighton, Daphne Zuniga and Josie Bissett.

Deserted gal pal can't deny pain of strained friendship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My friend, "Steven," and I have known each other 10 years. He and I have seen each other through many good times, and a few bad ones.

Most recently, Steven was in a relationship with a woman who couldn't stand the thought of his having female friends. So, for the last 18 months, the only contact I have had with him was via e-mail —and that was very seldom.

Steven recently e-mailed me saying he had broken up with this insecure woman. He expressed how sorry he was for the limited contact, and said he would like for us to rebuild our friendship. I'm thrilled to finally have my friend back, but I also feel somewhat resentful toward him for his having discarded me.

Abby, I missed Steven. But how can I be his pal again when I am still hurt by his blatant disregard for our friendship and my feelings over the past year and a half?

UNCERTAIN IN LONG BEACH

DEAR UNCERTAIN: The surest way to put this unhappy chapter in your relationship behind you would be to tell your friend how hurt you were, how abandoned you felt, talk it through and listen to what he has to say. Frankly, no one can blame you for feeling as you do. You were cut off through no fault of your own. And only time will tell if Steven has learned his lesson, so it won't happen again.

DEAR ABBY: For the last seven months I have been planning a Florida vacation with two of my girlfriends. However, one of them, "Heather," has just announced that she will be having foot surgery before we leave. She will be in a cast and able to walk only with the use of crutches. I hoped that Heather would cancel, but she's still planning to come anyway.

Abby, I don't want to take care of her on my only vacation. Am I being selfish? Should we let her come and just sit in the condo while we go out to explore? I'm afraid our friendship will suffer. What should I do?

VACATION-BOUND IN THE NORTHWEST

DEAR VACATION-BOUND: True friends can level with each other. Talk to Heather now and explain your concerns, including your fear that she will be stuck in the condo while you and your other friend will be out and about. Ask if she has thought this through.

You might be surprised to find that she'll be perfectly happy sitting in the condo, by a swimming pool or on the beach. If she takes the trip as planned, do your exploring and enjoy yourself. Heather can enjoy your adventures vicariously, as well as the experience of being "away," even if it's not the vacation she originally envisioned.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl with my own set of problems. I had a horrible childhood, but I love to read.

I read a series of novels that I grew very fond of, but in the last book the protagonist died. I cried. Can you tell me why I'm so attached?

TEEN READER

DEAR READER: Books can be wonderfully entertaining and informative, and they can also be an escape from reality. It's possible that you spent so much time in the "world" the author created that the protagonist became like a good friend. You became so emotionally invested that you felt a sense of loss when the character was no more. It's no different than becoming emotional watching a sad movie. It means the author did a good job.

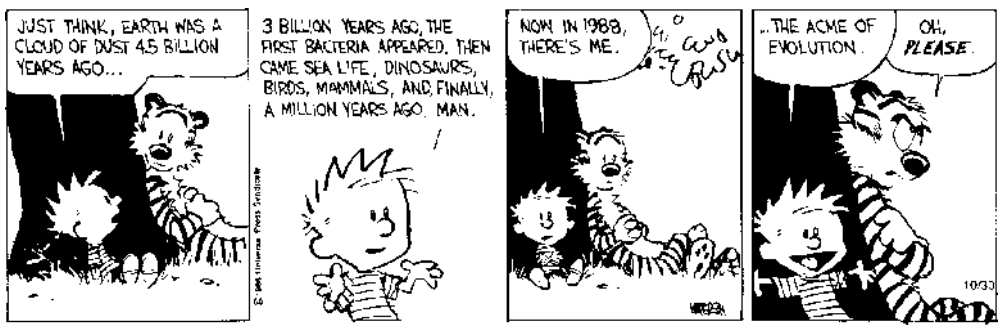
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


JUST THINK, EARTH WAS A CLOUD OF DUST 4.5 BILLION YEARS AGO...
3 BILLION YEARS AGO, THE FIRST BACTERIA APPEARED. THEN CAME SEA LIFE, DINOSAURS, BIRDS, MAMMALS, AND, FINALLY, A MILLION YEARS AGO, MAN.
NOW IN 1988, THERE'S ME.
...THE ACME OF EVOLUTION.
OH, PLEASE.
10/30

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

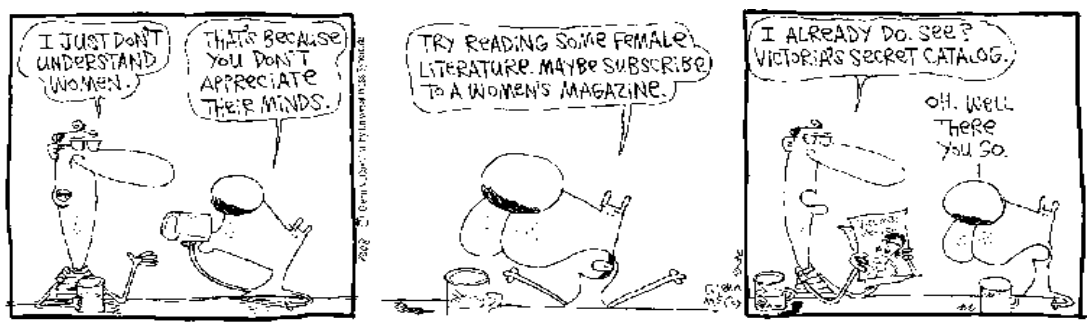
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

"THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO MARKET. THIS LITTLE PIGGY STAYED HOME. THIS LITTLE PIGGY HAD ROAST BEEF. THIS LITTLE PIGGY HAD NONE. AND THIS LITTLE PIGGY CRIED 'WEE, WEE, WEE,' ALL THE WAY HOME."
YEP, THAT'S THE WAY IT IS IN THE ANIMAL WORLD— EAT OR BE EATEN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WOMEN.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T APPRECIATE THEIR MINDS.
TRY READING SOME FEMALE LITERATURE. MAYBE SUBSCRIBE TO A WOMEN'S MAGAZINE.
I ALREADY DO. SEE? VICTORIA'S SECRET CATALOG.
OH. WELL THERE YOU GO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

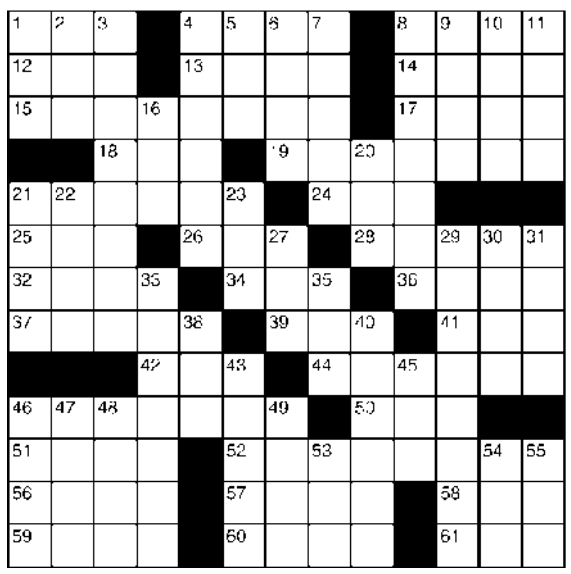
ACROSS
1 Vacationing
4 Weapon handle
8 Major leagues
12 Carnival city
13 Lock lecherously
14 Norway's capital
15 Bully
17 Revolution period
18 Bill
19 Come before
21 Talcum, e.g.
24 In an earlier time
25 " not choose to run"
26 Long sandwich
28 Different
32 Belgrade resident
34 Wrigley product
36 Domesticate
37 Inquired
39 Petrol
41 Zero
42 Melody
44 Gaudy
46 Stunt double, e.g.
50 "Of course"
51 Flock youngster
52 MySpace alternative
56 Neighborhood
57 Pinocchio, at times
58 X-ray descendant
59 Designer Vera
60 "Desire Under the "
61 Chow down

DOWN
1 Scepter topper
2 Christmas tree, often
3 Adroit maneuvering
4 Calvin's companion
5 Time of your life?
6 Envelope feature
7 Aquarium favorite
8 Refuse to buy
9 "Gotcha"
10 Pleased
11 Angry
16 Bankroll
20 Freudian concept
21 Tower city
22 Pindaric works
23 Bad hairpiece
27 Annoy
29 Attractive
30 Eastern bigwig
31 Depend (on)
33 Pellet-filled chair
35 Wrestlers' surface
38 Accomplished
40 Lord Wimsey's creator
43 Soldier's arm
45 Symbol of intrigue
46 Cabbage salad
47 The O'Hara estate
48 Congregation's cry
49 Manicurist's concern
53 Rotating part
54 Man-mouse link
55 Set of equipment

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	E	E		S	W	A	B		C	A	I	N
E	V	A		T	A	T	E		R	I	_	E
I	I	S		A	R	M	A	N	I	I		O
P	L	Y	E	R			D	A	M			
			C	L	O	T		B	E	A	C	H
A	R	M	O	I	R	E	S		A	S	H	Y
B	O	A		T	A	P	A	S		T	E	D
E	S	A	U		L	E	G	A	L	I	Z	E
L	Y	M	P	H		E	A	D	S			
			B	E	E			E	J	B	I	E
L	E	G	E	N	D	A	R	Y		L	O	W
A	R	E	A		A	G	U	E		A	T	E
W	A	T	T		M	C	D	S		H	A	S

Yesterday's answer 10-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gavin Rossdale, 41; Kevin Pollak, 50; Harry Hamlin, 57; Henry Winkler, 63

Happy Birthday: Take advantage of everything being offered. Open doors will appear and offers and gestures will be yours if you want them. You can now reap the benefits of your hard work. Try something new and surround yourself with people whom you find inspiring. It's your turn to let your talents speak and bring returns. Your numbers are 7, 10, 16, 21, 24, 32, 38

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Work on completion and you will gain respect for your accomplishment. A change in your financial status is apparent. A loan, grant or pending settlement will ease your stress. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Everything will count, from what you say and do to whom you contact and make deals with. Anger can lead you astray and actions can take you to your destiny. It's the journey that counts, not the end result. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take on whoever comes between you and what you want. Love is in the stars and you can alter your status by making a decision about your relationship with someone. An intuitive notion will allow you to benefit and advance. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Changes at work may be due to your appearance, interaction with someone or unusual way of doing things. Activities that will get you motivated and into a healthy routine will enable you to do more in less time. Let your actions speak for you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have a hold on something good but, if you abuse your right in any way, all will be lost. Cherish what you have and improve so you can get more. Socializing will lead to a greater appreciation of the possibilities available to you. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take an honest look around you and, if you see that you are surrounded by people who drag you down, start the process of elimination. It's crucial that you are selective in your choices. A pleasure trip will help you clarify what you must do. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Plan a fun time that will lead to love, romance and a night to remember. Open up your heart but not your pocketbook. Be yourself and you will get what you want and need. Don't make changes at home just yet. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A secret encounter with someone you work with may be fun but consider how it will affect your career. A helping hand to a cause you believe in will lead to someone who can help you further your position. Make wise choices. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A problem keeping things to yourself may put you in the line of fire. Do not exaggerate if you don't want to be questioned about the facts. Conservative action will be required if you want to stay out of trouble. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have a lot on the line. You will discover that your personal life is in need of some reassurance and undivided attention. Plan carefully so that you don't disappoint anyone in your life. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to emotional blackmail. Just because someone puts demands on you doesn't mean you have to accept them and follow through. You must not allow anyone to hold you back. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Give and take will be required. A love connection may be on the line if you haven't paid enough attention to his or her needs. Settle differences you have with people from your past. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are relentless and aren't likely to accept no for an answer. You are true to your beliefs and make the necessary alterations to get your way. You are a leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2			5	1	8			3
		1				4		
	2			9			5	
	3	8		4		6	1	
	1			7			9	
		5				7		
6			4	2	1			5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	1	2	4	9	7	3	5
7	9	4	3	1	5	2	8	6
2	5	3	7	8	6	1	9	4
3	4	5	6	2	1	9	7	8
9	2	8	4	7	3	6	5	1
6	1	7	5	9	8	3	4	2
5	8	9	1	3	2	4	6	7
1	7	6	9	5	4	8	2	3
4	3	2	8	6	7	5	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/30

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LANDING IN MUMBAI Solution: 9 letters

K	I	H	D	W	O	R	C	A	R	R	I	E	R	S
F	O	S	A	T	A	X	I	A	W	O	P	M	(C)	T
U	L	N	I	R	A	S	N	I	O	P	S	(I)	Y	A
E	A	I	K	R	B	B	O	T	T	E	(T)	T	A	N
L	V	I	G	A	U	O	L	E	R	(Y)	L	H	W	S
N	A	I	D	H	N	O	R	U	S	A	E	I	N	A
O	A	N	R	N	T	M	T	R	E	L	V	O	U	R
I	R	I	D	R	I	R	E	G	U	T	I	E	R	A
T	A	N	R	N	A	G	N	D	Y	T	S	Y	L	S
C	W	D	A	P	N	E	E	A	I	A	C	E	T	I
E	I	L	E	E	L	H	U	D	V	O	B	O	W	H
T	H	D	S	L	C	A	N	Q	A	I	L	M	W	A
O	O	S	A	S	A	O	N	S	I	I	O	A	O	D
R	A	H	A	S	C	Y	T	E	P	N	L	O	K	B
P	C	O	N	G	E	S	I	I	O	N	U	Y	D	E

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Airplane, Arrive, Bombay, Carriers, Challenge, City, Coast, Conditions, Congestion, Crowd, Dahisar, Daily, Delay, Departures, Flight, Fuel, Harbor, India, Konkan, Lake, Land, Mithi, Navi, Ocean, Ohwara, Passengers, Pots, Poisar, Powai, Protection, Runway, Sahar, Schedule, Tansa, Taxi, Terminal, Tourist, Travel, Unique, West

Yesterday's Answer: Peacock

WONDERWORD creates the Book of Celebrities, which is available in Universal Press Syndicate bookstores. $5 postage for the first book, $1 for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111. For credit card orders, call 1-800-591-3863 (M-F, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Central time) or visit www.andrewsmcmeel.com

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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WHATZIT Solution:
Every dog has his day

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WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MARMADUKE
PLUTO
SNOWY
SPOT
FIDO
LASSIE
SNOOPY

Find today's solution in this section

"FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT"

Do you like meeting and helping other people?
Are you a team member?

We are looking for people who are friendly, smiling, dependable, hard working, and a great team player to work in our customer service team as a Customer Service Representative and at the same time improving upon your own working skills.

Able to demonstrate great people skills; communication skill; written and spoken English skills; and a strong math skill, A High School or GED graduate required.

A reliable transportation is required with the ability to show to work as scheduled and on time. Must be willing to learn new skills, take directions and follow company policy & able **to work a flexible** schedule including Sunday's and Holiday's.
Sales or customer service background helpful

Application available @ Shell Gualo Rai (across from Pizza Hut), Shell San Roque, & Shell Susupe. Turn in application at any our Delta Stations.

FOR LOCAL HIRE ONLY

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

We are made to move

Would you like to be a mentor to a struggling student?

Are you driven to make a difference in the lives of others?

Brain Builders-Saipan,
is looking for individuals interested in part time or full time work with a background in education, social work, physical therapy, speech therapy, nursing, or related fields. Job entails working with students with diagnosed learning difficulties, their schools, and families. Excellent opportunity to set your own hours, with good pay, and a rewarding career. Master's Degree preferred.

PACE
processing and cognitive enhancement

Please send resume to:
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Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PAGE 3
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE
There is still hope for
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235- NEWS

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Banner 17, win No. 1 for champion Celtics

BOSTON (AP)—Banner No. 17 is up in the rafters, and win No. 1 is in the books.

NBA finals MVP Paul Pierce scored 27 points as the defending champion Boston Celtics followed an emotional ring ceremony and banner raising with a 90-85 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night. LeBron James scored 22, but he missed a driving layup with 41 seconds left and two free throws in the last 11 seconds.

In their first meaningful game since beating the Los Angeles Lakers at the new Boston Garden to clinch their record 17th NBA title, the Celtics began the festivities with a 20-minute ceremony to honor the 2007-08 team that brought Pierce to tears.

The Celtics captain—and the longest-tenured member of the team—choked up when he was handed the championship trophy from Hall of Famer John Havlicek, and again when he received his ring from owner Wyc Grousbeck. Once all the players had received their gaudy diamond and emerald baubles, Pierce took the lead in pulling the ropes that slid the "2008 World Champions" banner into the rafters among all the others.

AP

Boston Celtics players and team personnel gather as the Celtics' 17th NBA championship banner is raised prior to the Celtics' season-opening basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers in Boston on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008.

The Cavaliers chose not to watch, having been deprived of a chance for a title of their own when they lost to Boston in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals. James outscored Pierce 45-41 in that man-on-man shootout, but Pierce's team got the better of James' in the series, and again on Tuesday.

Pierce had 11 points in the third quarter, when the Celtics outscored Cleveland 24-13 to take a 67-63 lead. Boston scored 12 of the first 14 points in the third, then the last eight of the quarter to turn a four-point deficit into a four-point lead.

The Celtics led 86-80 with 1:15 left when Mo Williams, Cleveland's big offseason acquisition, hit a 3-pointer from the left side. Williams then grabbed the rebound of Leon Powe's miss, but James drove through traffic to the basket and couldn't muscle the ball into the basket.

Pierce missed a jumper, and after James got the rebound he was fouled hard going to the basket; he missed the first of two free throws, cutting it to 86-84. Pierce cleared the full-court pressure with a long pass to Powe under the basket for the dunk and foul.

After his missed free throw, James got another chance at the line, this time with the Cavaliers down 88-84 and 4.8 seconds left. He missed the first, and Ray Allen hit a pair of free throws to clinch it.

Allen scored eight points, and Kevin Garnett had just 11 with six rebounds in an off night for the Big Three.

Except for Pierce.

There were two other games on the league's opening night, with Milwaukee at Chicago and Portland at the Western Conference champion Lakers.

But the commissioner was in Boston to hand out the Celtics' rings.

Bulls 108, Bucks 95

At Chicago, Luol Deng and Ben Gordon provided enough big shots to lead the Bulls to a victory over former coach Scott Skiles and Milwaukee. Deng scored 21 points and Gordon added 18 to offset Michael Redd's 30.

Derrick Rose, the No. 1 draft pick out of Memphis and a Chicago native, wowed fans with his quickness and strength but mixed in enough mistakes to remind them he is a work in progress. He finished with 11 points, nine assists and four turnovers.

Deng shot 8-for-13 after signing a six-year contract in the offseason, and Gordon scored 10 in the fourth quarter, making new coach Vinny Del Negro's debut a successful one.

Lakers 96, Trail Blazers 76

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant had 23 points, 11 rebounds and five assists to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 96-76 season-opening victory over the Portland Trail Blazers and spoiling Greg Oden's debut, which was cut short by another injury.

Bryant orchestrated a well-balanced offense for the Lakers, who also played tenacious defense.

Oden's highly anticipated NBA debut didn't last long; the 20-year-old center left the game late in the first half with an injured right foot after taking four shots and going scoreless. He had five rebounds, one turnover, blocked one shot and picked up two fouls while playing 12:51.

The injury was diagnosed as a sprain and X-rays were negative. Oden will undergo an MRI on Wednesday.

New details of overdose episode at Thomas' NY home

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—Officers who responded to Isiah Thomas' home after a 911 call reporting an overdose on sleeping pills found a man passed out on the floor and gave him oxygen until an ambulance arrived.

Authorities have not publicly identified Thomas as the victim, but a person familiar with the case, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official police report has not been released, has confirmed it was the former NBA star and Knicks coach.

On Tuesday, Harrison Police Chief David Hall provided new details about last week's emergency in which officers were handed a bottle of prescription pills at Thomas' Westchester County home.

Hall said the bottle had a name on it, but he would not disclose the precise medication. He said police called the overdose accidental because there was no suicide note and no indication the victim suffered from depression.

Thomas has denied being the victim, and Hall again criticized the ex-coach for saying it was his 17-year-old daughter, Lauren, who required treatment.

"As parents, you try to protect your kids; you don't say they did something when it was you who did it," Hall said. "We know the difference between a 47-year-old man and a teenager."

Thomas' spokesman, Jesse Derris, said, "This continues to be a private family matter and the family respectfully asks for privacy." A call to Knicks spokesman Jonathan Supranowitz was not immediately returned. Thomas, fired as coach last April, still works for the team.

Some of the latest details about the Thomas case were first reported by Newsday.

Hall said the 911 call made late Thursday from Thomas' multimillion-dollar home in the Purchase section of Harrison went first to state police, then to Harrison. Harrison police on patrol nearby got to the scene first, saw a 47-year-old man on the floor and went into "standard operating procedure," Hall said. They administered oxygen until an ambulance crew arrived and took over, eventually lifting the man onto a gurney and taking him to White Plains Hospital.

He said it was his department's first call to Thomas' house. An emergency services log, with the names of the caller and the patient blacked out, indicates the ambulance arrived at the house minutes before midnight.

Hall said someone at the house gave his officers a prescription bottle, and the officers gave it to the ambulance crew so the hospital doctors would know about it. They then searched the house for other medications that might have been involved but found none, he said.

As a player, Thomas won NBA titles with the Detroit Pistons in 1989 and 1990 and an NCAA championship with Indiana in 1981. He joined the Knicks as the team president in 2003 and became coach in June 2006 after Larry Brown was fired.

He was fired as the Knicks' coach April 18 after a season of dreadful basketball, a tawdry sexual harassment lawsuit and unending chants from fans demanding his dismissal. Still, he was retained by the organization as an adviser and consultant.

Doctor: Former Arizona coach Lute Olson had stroke

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Lute Olson's doctor said Tuesday that the former Arizona basketball coach had a stroke within the last year and he advised him to retire. The comments by Dr. Steven Knope at a news conference called by Olson's family offer the first explanation for Olson's sudden retirement last week, two days after he appeared at the Wildcats' media day. Olson said at the time he was energized and looking forward to his 25th season with Arizona.

Knope said an MRI confirmed the stroke in the frontal part of Olson's brain, which left the Hall of Famer with severe depression and impaired judgment.

"This is a rather cruel twist of fate," Knope said at a McKale Center news conference attended by two of Olson's daughters, Jodi Brase and Christi Snyder.

"He is quite literally devastated," Knope said. "He was doing great over the summer and very much wanted to fulfill his obligation to the community and the university."

Knope said Olson is resting at home and is on a blood thinner, and he's optimistic Olson will recover.

The announcement ended almost a year of speculation about Olson's health. Rumors began to circulate when he took a leave of absence last season for what he later termed a "medical condition that was not life-threatening."

Over the last few weeks, Knope said he had talked to Olson about retiring because Olson was struggling to handle his workload as preseason practice opened.

"He just couldn't put the pieces together," Knope said. "He couldn't do what he needed to do for the team."

Knope said he ordered the MRI on Monday after Olson did not respond to recent treatment for depression.

"Unlike a typical stroke that you may imagine where someone is unable to walk or talk or move a limb, this stroke occurred in a part of the brain where much of his intellectual function and his motor function was perfectly normal," Knope said. "So it wasn't quite apparent. The tipoff and the clue came in the last several weeks, when we began to treat what appeared to be a bout of depression that simply didn't respond."

Knope said he had treated Olson for depression in the last year, during which Olson went through a contentious divorce from his second wife, Christine.

In April, Olson appeared ready to return to the grind of major college coaching. Olson told his doctor, "I love the game, I can't wait to get back," Knope said.

But something had changed. Knope said the coach had responded earlier to antidepressants but in the more recent bout he did not and also exhibited out-of-character behavior.

One public example came when a combative Olson sparred with reporters during the April news conference to announce his return. He typically had cool but cordial relations with the media.

"I think we can attribute that behavior to the stroke," Knope said.

At media day last week, Olson expressed contrition about his behavior that day. "I've wished I had that hour back many times," he said.

Olson's hands have trembled in recent years, prompting rumors that he has Parkinson's disease. Knope said Olson suffers from a benign condition called familial tremor but does not have Parkinson's.

"There is no dementia going on in coach Olson," Knope said. "He had a mental status exam two days ago, and he scored almost perfectly."

Knope said Olson is still accepting that his health forced him to retire. Knope said the coach is "beating himself up" for leaving the team shortly before the season.

"I can't tell you how much Lute wishes he were here today," Knope said.

Olson's interim replacement, Russ Pennell, expressed his support.

"Today's news, as odd as this may sound, is comforting only in that he now knows what he's up against as he works to return to good health," Pennell said.

Whither the weather: Wacky World Series on hold

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Sooner or later, someone will win this World Series. Just not Tuesday night. Too wet. Besides, the baseball commissioner went home to Milwaukee. Maybe the Phillies and Rays can play ball Wednesday night. But snow showers are in the forecast.

So just sit tight, folks, we'll get back to you when we can. Right now, bad weather is turning the Fall Classic into a Rainfall Classic.

Players and fans remained in limbo Tuesday, with Game 5 still suspended from the previous night. It was tied at 2 in the sixth inning when a steady downpour turned Citizens Bank Park into a quagmire, washing away the foul lines and turning home plate into a giant puddle.

The Phillies lead 3-1 in the best-of-seven matchup, meaning Philadelphia could be close to winning a championship the city desperately craves.

Or perhaps not.

"It's kind of like overtime in a sense, I guess," Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon said. "Or sudden victory."

"It's just the way it is," he said. "There's no crying about it."

OK, no crying here. The manager who listens to Springsteen while filling out his lineup card was real calm—he'd already lost one game at 1:47 a.m., then saw this unexpected break force his Rays to relocate to a hotel 25 miles south in Wilmington, Del.

Too late for complaining, anyway. A Series studded with big boppers such as Ryan Howard and B.J. Upton was no longer whacky—it was downright wacky.

The teams are tentatively set to resume at 8:37 p.m. Wednesday.

Since the Phillies will come to bat in the bottom of the sixth, fans won't have to wait long for the seventh-inning stretch. They might not even have time to get a hot dog.

Hard to tell how many people will tune in even if—for once—a World Series wraps up before kids have to go to bed. The TV ratings for the first four games dipped by 25 percent from last year.

Tickets from Game 5 are good for the resumption, provided everyone can scramble back with their soggy stubs. The Phillies' ballpark holds nearly 46,000 people and surely logistics will prevent some of them from returning.

Then again, a $160 seat in the upper deck is suddenly more valuable for someone eager to see the Phillies try to win their first championship since 1980, and the city's first major sports title since the NBA's 76ers in 1983.

By Tuesday evening, over 50 tickets were available for resale on StubHub.com, spokeswoman Joellen Ferrer said. The prices ranged from $599 to $3,500.

Commissioner Bud Selig, who flew home for a day, was ready to return to Philly for as long as necessary.

"We'll stay here if we have to celebrate Thanksgiving here," he said in announcing the suspension.

If the Phillies win a battle of the bullpens when Game 5 resumes, they'll soon parade up Broad Street. If they lose, time to fly to Tampa Bay.

Delays in the World Series are rare. There has never been a rain-shortened game and this was the first suspension.

There were three straight washouts in 1962 with the Yankees and Giants, and a rainout set up the classic 1975 game between Boston and Cincinnati that Carlton Fisk won with a home run off the foul pole. In 1989, an earthquake interrupted Oakland and San Francisco.

While baseball purists deride Tampa Bay's Tropicana Field as an antiseptic dome that's ringed with crazy catwalks, at least wet weather isn't a factor.

Rain intruded in Game 3 Saturday night, with the first pitch pushed back to 10:06 p.m.—the latest start time in Series history—and the last pitch came shortly before 2 a.m.

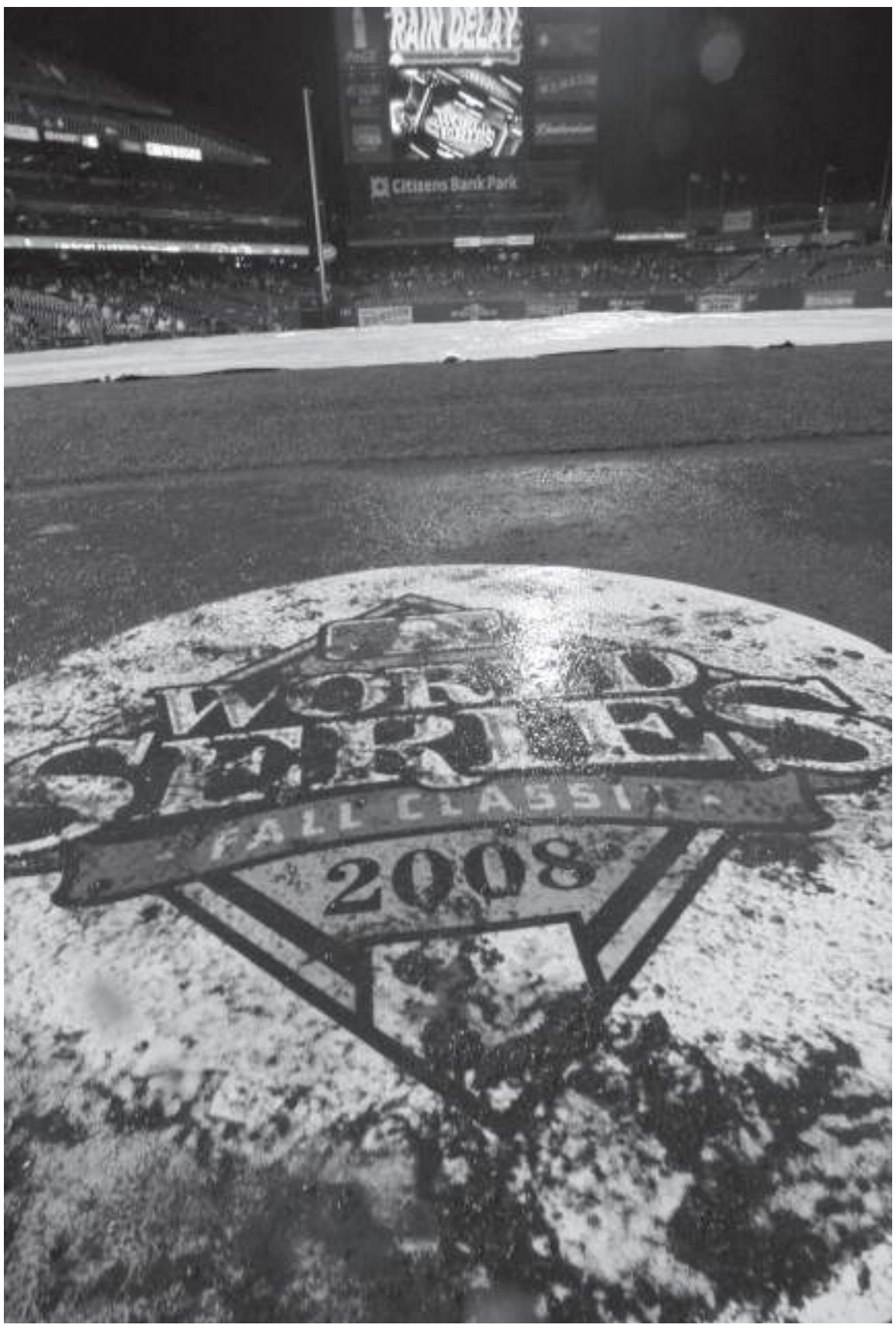
Despite a shaky forecast, baseball tried to play Monday night. It was raining lightly at the start. Within a few innings, it was clear the showers weren't going to quit.

"You're not going to win against Mother Nature," Phillies pitcher Cole Hamels said.

Soon, every pitch and popup became an adventure as All-Stars were reduced to looking like Little Leaguers. The grounds crew kept putting down absorbent Diamond Dust to absorb the moisture, and it kept caking the infield.

With the wind chill dropping into the 30s, several players wore caps with ear flaps attached. Mud flaps would've been more appropriate.

"I was upset with some of the things that went on," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said after umpires called for the tarp. "But I definitely was agreed with everything that happened, and I also agreed that the game definitely had to be stopped. The conditions were definitely unplayable."



AP

Mud covers an on deck batting circle after play was suspended during Game 5 of the baseball World Series between the Philadelphia Phillies and Tampa Bay Rays in Philadelphia, Monday, Oct. 27, 2008.

Smith, Woodson, Sharpe among Pro Hall candidates

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—Defensive end Bruce Smith, defensive back Rod Woodson and tight end Shannon Sharpe are among first-year candidates for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The list includes 110 players, seven coaches and 16 contributors, including former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and longtime team owners Bud Adams, Jerry Jones, Art Modell and Ralph Wilson.

Hall of Fame selectors will choose 25 candidates who will be announced later this month as semifinalists. The field will then be narrowed to 15 by a mail ballot. The inductees will be selected from among those 15 and the two senior nominees previously announced, Bob Hayes and Claude Humphrey. They were selected in August by a senior selection committee.

The class of inductees will be chosen at the selection committee's annual meeting on Saturday, January 31, 2009, in Tampa, Fla., the day before the 2009 Super Bowl. As few as four and as many as seven can be selected.

To be considered for Hall of Fame election, a nominated player or coach must be retired for at least five years. A contributor, who has made outstanding career contributions to pro football in capacities other than playing or coaching, may still be active in his pro football career.

NFL BRIEFS

Cottrell out as Chargers' defensive coordinator

(AP)—Without a sack or interception in the last nine quarters, the San Diego Chargers on Tuesday fired defensive coordinator Ted Cottrell and replaced him with inside linebackers coach Ron Rivera. Cottrell had become a popular target of fan ire as the Chargers (3-5) lost three of their last four games, including a 37-32 loss to former teammate Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints in London on Sunday

That game was indicative of the Chargers' defensive shortcomings, with no pressure on the quarterback and a lot of passing yards. Coach Norv Turner decided after the game that Cottrell had to go, and informed him on Monday morning. "Probably the things that we have needed to improve in are the same things that affected us in Week Two and so on," Turner said. "The same things have been an issue throughout the first eight games, at different times." The Chargers are at or near the bottom of the NFL rankings in several defensive categories, including last in pass defense.

Holmes to return to Steelers' lineup vs. Redskins

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers won't further punish wide receiver Santonio Holmes for being charged last week with a marijuana-related offense and plan to start him Monday night in Washington. Holmes, who led the NFL in yards-per-catch last season, was benched for the Steelers' 21-14 loss Sunday to the New York Giants and was not in uniform. He was allowed to return to the team after speaking to his teammates and issuing a public apology on Monday. The NFL could punish Holmes once his case is resolved, but coach Mike Tomlin said there will be no additional action taken by the team. Tomlin did not say if Holmes was fined, although he likely was. Holmes, a third-year player out of Ohio State, was charged with a misdemeanor count of possession of a small amount of marijuana following a police stop Thursday. Holmes has a preliminary hearing before a Pittsburgh district judge on Nov. 24. "As a football team and an organization, in terms of our view of the situation, we've laid it to bed," Tomlin said Tuesday. "Satisfactory action has been taken from our standpoint. ... For us, we're moving forward."

Hasselbeck still not cleared to play for Seahawks

SEATTLE (AP)—Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck said Tuesday a doctor has not cleared him to play because of a leg problem stemming from bulging disk in his back. Hasselbeck told KIRO Radio he does not need surgery. He said he failed tests in Los Angeles and was unable to walk on his heels. He says there's no pain in his back or right leg, just a "dead leg" feeling. "Just got a weakness in my leg," he said. "Because of the disk issue in my back that nerve is shutting off the muscles that are supposed to work in your leg." He plans to keep working on strength and conditioning and is confident he'll get better. "Most of it is just frustration, mental and trying to stay positive, and just realizing, hey, it's going to be all right," he told KIRO. "There are far worse things." It appears Hasselbeck will miss his fourth consecutive game when the Seahawks (2-5) play the Eagles (4-3) Sunday in Seattle. Backup Seneca Wallace is preparing for another start. He completed 15 of 25 passes for 222 yards and a touchdown and did not turn the ball over in a 34-13 win over the 49ers Sunday. A week earlier, he went 12-for-23 for just 73 yards with an interception in a loss at Tampa Bay.

Enyophace in easy win over Thai One On

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Enyophace nailed its sixth consecutive win against Thai One On, 21-11, 21-17, 21-11, while three others defeated their respective foes last Tuesday night in the Miller Lite Four-Person beach Volleyball League at the Pacific Islands Club.

It was the seventh win in eight matches for Enyophace, which keep its tight grip of solo second place and closed its gap from pacesetter Acme Roofing.

Acme is towing the rest of the field with its 8-0 record.

However, Enyophace's three-set victory over Thai One On widened its gap in sets won with 22. Acme had 18 sets won.

The other teams that won their game last Tuesday were MHS Serves Up, Karakuchi, and Kimoichi.

Kimochi also won in straight sets against Off Twice to improve its record to 5-4 in fifth place.

Off Twice was relegated to seventh with 4-5.

Karakuchi won by default against Champ On, 21-0, 21-0, 21-0, and stayed in fourth place with 5-3.

Champ On remained in 10th with 1-7.

In the first game, MHS Serves Up finally barged into the win column with a 21-15, 22-20, 20-22 win over MHS 67 Doh Fins.

Serves Up is now 1-6, while Doh-Fins remained winless in seven outings.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Nicole French serves in the third set for Kimochi's win over Off Twice last Tuesday in the Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League at the PIC sand court.

Ladies wanted for Trench Warz IX

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The promoter of Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation is looking for two interested lady gladiators to be included in the supporting bouts of the Dec. 12 event set at the Saipan World Resort.

Trench Tech president and promoter Justis "Cuki' Alvaraez said they are looking for girls in the 130-lb. to 140-lb. divisions or heavier.

Alvarez said there would be a talent and participation fee for any interested women fighters.

For more details, you may contact Alvarez or Randy Taylor at 483-4MMA or 483-8670.

Alvarez said the lady fighters must be 18 years old or over.

The main event of Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation will feature some of the best MMA fighters on Saipan.

Saipan-trained and native son Frank "The Crank" Camacho, who won gold and bronze medals in his recent fights in the United States, will go up against Marianas Elite's Syl "The Deal" Teregoyo in a K1 match.

Teregoyo is a standout from Marianas Elite and is the current top contender in the welterweight division.

The semi main event will also feature two outstanding local grapplers as Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial and Team Zalaka's Ton "XCalibur" Nekaifes will duke it ou in the heavyweight division.

Two months ago, Fitial won a gold medal in a tournament in Guam, which he considers as his biggest ever as an MMA fighter.

Nekaifes is no pushover either as the fighter tips the scales at 280-lb. and is known as a heavy hitter.

Also in the fight card will be the match between Chris "No Luv" Laayug of Trench Tech and Leroy Sablan of Marianas Elite.

Laayug just came off a unanimous decision victory against Derrick "Pinchi' Rangmar in the main event of the Rites of Passage V last Sept. 27 to improve his record to 4-1.

Sablan, meanwhile, is an experienced fighter with a 3-2 win-loss record.

Another match to watch out for is the fight between Ken "Kamakazi" Tanzawa of Japan and Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu of Guam.

More jr. netters joining Fall Classic

Several players who competed in last weekend's Inaugural 2008 Jehovah-Jireh Tennis Tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts are expected to participate in next month's 2008 NMITA Fall Classic Tennis Tournament.

According to Fiesta tennis instructor Peter Loyola, who organized the Jehovah-Jireh netfest, 30 percent of the players from last weekend's tournament will be joining the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-sanctioned event.

The Fall Classic is set for Nov. 8 and will be holding competitions in three age groups (9-and-under, 13-and-under, and 18-and-under) in both girls and boys divisions. Other details of the tournament were unavailable at press time.

Loyola said he is encouraging players training under him to join the Fall Classic as the tournament is one way to improve their skills.

"The Fall Classic will feature the best junior players in the CNMI, so playing in the tournament will give new players a chance to challenge CNMI's best, gain experience from a very competitive tournament, and improve their skills," Loyola said.

Loyola had last weekend's tournament divided into three divisions, based on players' skill level.

Carl Dela Cruz, Kevin Rhee, and Tiffany Madlangbayan topped Level 1, 2, and 3 of the Jehovah-Jireh tournament, which drew more than 30 participants.

Meanwhile, Loyola will be holding an adult version of the Jehovah-Jireh tournament mid November. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROLLERS I

From Page 28

in that run, while Teregeyo made a triple and split his charities to seize the lead, which the Rollers I never lost since then.

Teregeyo continued to fire up the Rollers I's offense in the remaining six minutes of the game and his intensity rubbed off on his teammates, who added points in the closing minutes of the match.

Teregeyo paced Rollers I with 15 points, while Matagolai chipped in 14. The rest of the Rollers I players combined for 36 points outscoring the Suns' bench.

Juan Maratita led the Suns' losing cause hitting 15 points, while Mariano Lisua contributed 12.

The Rollers I-Sixers semifinals match will be played in the second game on Monday at 7pm. The CNMI Junior Nationals and the victor of the G-Stars-Kontenders match will duel in the first game at 5:30pm.

The title match is set for Nov. 4 at 7pm, while the consolation match will be played at 5:30pm on the same day.

The CNMI Junior Nationals are this year's defending champion beating the Southern Sonics in last season's finals, 98-91.

The Sixers placed third outclassing the Rollers I, 84-83.

Rollers I 65 – Teregeyo 15, Matagolai 14, E. Camacho 8, Danas 7, Concepcion 6, A. Camacho , Paez 4, Deleon Guerrero 3.

Suns 53 – Maratita 15, M. Lisua 12, Brel 8, Calvo 4, Salas 2, Fleming 2, R. Lisua 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-all, 65-53.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and Arnold Mesa.

TERNS

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After winning the second set and prevented what could be their biggest loss, the top seeded Eagles finally restored their confidence as they erected a 10-4 lead in the third set.

Leaning on the all-around game of Kim Min Sung, the Eagles never relinquished their lead and advanced to the finals for the first time.

They were third in 2006 and fourth in 2007.

Eagles coach Mark Robles said his players got nervous in the first set, reminiscent of their loss to the semifinals last year to ousted defending champion Seventh Day Adventist.

SDA lost the SIS Green this time in the semifinals.

"We won with our good serves and good returns," Robles said, expressing optimism in winning the crown.

The championship game will start at 3:30pm today. "It would be a tough game," Robles said.

TEAM

From Page 28

(33), and Onuma Kenji (22) made up the rest of the field.

For the Red Star, or intermediate class, Sekiguchi Yoshihiro's 44 points topped the field, with Yoshida Yukie (37), Mieko Kobayashi (35) coming in second and third, respectively. Muraoka Yukio (20), Matsuo Nobuyuki (18), and Mizutani Kenji (12) also competed in the division.

Last but not the least, Rodney Deleon Guerrero won the Green Star or beginner category with his 34 points, followed by Jay Santos (33), Ando Kaoru (28), Judykate Deleon Guerrero (27), and Takagi Yoshimi (16).

Both competitions in the team and individual categories consisted of a mix of olie jumps and small, medium, and large buoy jumps.

Pros Hatakeyama and Fujimoto used the 2008 Chagi Cup to train for the 2008 DunPanas Cup in Biwako, Japan set for Nov. 16. As many as 100 professional wakeboarders are expected to compete in the event.

UMANGS

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Juan, Marchie Fernandez, and Josephine Estrada.

CNMI Women's National team member Roxie Lamar called the shots for the Lady Turtles, who are composed of Malua Hosono, Kaylen Salle, Jonalien Jonathan, Elgien Enriquez, Kathruth Sabangiol, Salena Calma, Andrea Marquez, Carmen Haro, Illarchem Ythemar, Jonah Litulimar, Rayna Rony, Reina Asano, and Jasmine Weilbacher.

In the boys division, Keoni Borja connected on two penalty shots in the first half to lift the Umangs to another shutout victory over the Turtles.

Jonathan Jonah was the Oleai's goalie in the first half and on both occasions he failed to save the ball, allowing Borja to score.

In the second half, Oleai had two chances to score, but Umangs goalkeeper Franklin Lizama dove for the ball preventing Oleai from making goals.

Joining Lizama and Borja on the Umangs roster are Norman and Freeman Defang, Emerson Feria, Jesus Rabauliman, Donovan Castro, Jerry Kikku, San Juan Ariola, Kent Kalen, Wesley Emul, Lewis Jakin, Peng Zhi, Glenn Zacharas, Finson They, Dexter Welley, Jonathan Villagomez, Jason Villagomez, Kelvin Jack Deleon Guerrero, and Fredrick Encobo.

Oleai has an 18-man roster for the U12 league. The list include Ed Cordero, Atiron Norita, John Taisacan, Brian Lee, Braylan Floresca, Esnicleebert Siden, Resty Helson, Midcat Tipingini, Vynzent Maniacop, Dennis Norita, Jason Rangaar, Jonas Langu, R.T. Kafoto, Yoneil Maniacop, Joaquin Rangamar, Kenneth Park, and Chester Floresca.

Three more games were played yesterday, but results were unavailable at press time.

DanDan A played against San Vicente at the Canaries home field in the other Southern Group match.

Over at the north side, Gregorio T. Camacho hosted Eucon International School, while Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star collided with Saipan International School at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

The inaugural U12 league has seven teams in the Northern Group and eight in the Southern Division.

Each group will play in a single-round robin regular season with the top two teams in each division advancing to the playoffs.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	1	0	1.000	–
New Jersey	0	0	.000	1/2
Toronto	0	0	.000	1/2
NewYork	0	0	.000	1/2
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	1/2

Central Division

Chicago	1	0	1.000	–
Detroit	0	0	.000	1/2
Indiana	0	0	.000	1/2
Cleveland	0	1	.000	1
Milwaukee	0	1	.000	1

Southeast Division

Atlanta	0	0	.000	–
Washington	0	0	.000	–
Miami	0	0	.000	–
Orlando	0	0	.000	–
Charlotte	0	0	.000	–

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	0	0	.000	–
Dallas	0	0	.000	–
Houston	0	0	.000	–
Memphis	0	0	.000	–
San Antonio	0	0	.000	–

Northwest Division

Denver	0	0	.000	–
Minnesota	0	0	.000	–
Oklahoma City	0	0	.000	–
Utah	0	0	.000	–
Portland	0	1	.000	1

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	1	0	1.000	–
Golden State	0	0	.000	1/2
L.A. Clippers	0	0	.000	1/2
Phoenix	0	0	.000	1/2
Sacramento	0	0	.000	1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Standings

Acme Roofing	8	0
Enyophace	7	1
MHS Peers	5	2
Karakuchi	5	3
Kimoichi	5	4
Thai One On	4	4
Off Twice	4	5
MHS Oakies	3	4
MHS Serves Up	1	6
Champ On	1	7
MHS 67 Doh Fins	0	7

2008 Jehovah-Jireh Tennis Tournament

Photos By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players and their parents pose for a group photo after the Inaugural 2008 Jehovah-Jireh Tennis Tournament held over the weekend at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Level 1 champion Carl Dela Cruz, left front row, and Level 2 third placer Jason Gamboa pose with Fiesta sports and recreation manager Chris Fizer, left back row, and tournament organizer and Fiesta tennis instructor Peter Loyola.

Level 3 runner-up Kennedy Isuka with coach Peter Loyola. Also in the photo is Seung Jae Kim, the smallest player in the tournament and was among the recipients of the Sportsmanship Award.

Level 2 runner-up Sakura Imaya with tournament organizer Peter Loyola.

Theo Kim goes to the net during his match against Alfie Madlangbayan in the Level 1 competition.

Morris Villanueva chases the ball down the backline.

Tournament sponsors, from left, Jerry Tan, partly hidden by his daughter Tania, and wife Lydia, and Vicky Isuka.

Adelle Hudkins stretches for the ball during the Inaugural 2008 Jehovah-Jireh Tennis Tournament held over the weekend at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Grant Rhee serves during his match against Adelle Hudkins in Level 3 division.

Sam Soledad goes for a forehand return.

Joseph Lee returns the ball to Morris Villanueva during their Level 2 match.

Alfie Madlangbayan loses his balance as he chases the ball during his match against Gio Song in Level 1.

Enyophace in easy win over Thai One On

Enyophace nailed its sixth consecutive win against Thai One On, 21-11, 21-17, 21-11, while three others defeated their respective foes last Tuesday night in the Miller Lite Four-Person beach Volleyball League at the Pacific Islands Club. 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Banner 17, win No. 1 for NBA champion Celtics

Banner No. 17 is up in the rafters, and win No. 1 is in the books. NBA finals MVP Paul Pierce scored 27 points as the defending champion Boston Celtics followed an emotional ring ceremony and banner raising with a 90-85 victory. 24

Rollers I eclipses Suns, gain semis entry

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Rollers I secured the third semifinals ticket in the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after outshining the Kagman Suns, 65-53, Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Both teams were sluggish in the first half and in the first few minutes of the second half due to a weeklong break, but the Rollers I finally found its rhythm midway in the second half to cruise to the 12-point win.

The victory allowed the Rollers I to join pennant champion CNMI Junior Nationals and the San Antonio Sixers in the semifinals. The Rollers I will be paired with the Sixers in the Final Four round, which will be held on Monday.

The Junior Nationals will face the winner of the Kontenders-G-Stars tiff in the other semis pairing, which will be played tonight.

The playoff game between the Rollers I, which was seeded third in the playoffs, and the six-ranked Suns ended in a deadlock after the first half, 32-all.

The second half was a seesaw battle with the Suns holding the lead for the last time at 38-37, midway in that period.

A 13-2 run anchored by Manny Matagolai and Donald Teregeyo put the Rollers in front, 50-40, going into the last six minutes of the game.

Matagolai scored five straight points

See ROLLERS I on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Rollers I's Don Teregeyo goes up for a layup against two Kagman Suns defenders during their playoff game in the Rotary caging Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Terns vs. Eagles in HS V-ball finals

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

It would be Whispering Palms vs. Grace Christian Academy in the championship game of the 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

The two teams fashioned out contrasting victories against their respective rivals in the semifinals round yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The WPS Terns, who were seeded fourth after the double-round regular season, advanced via a 26-24, 25-13 upset over the second-seeded Calvary Christian Sharks.

The win more than avenged the Terns' two losses to the Sharks in the regular season.

WPS coach Mark McDonald said "win or lose" it's already a big achievement for his players.

"We have to keep our heads up in the game. If we lose our concentration, we can't go up there," he said.

Against the GCA Eagles, the Terns had 1-1 in the regular season.

"We have a 50-50 chance," McDonald said of their chances as he watched the semifinal game between the GCA Eagles and Saipan International School Green Geckos.

The Eagles dropped the first set, 14-25, but buckled down to work in the next two sets, 25-21, 15-10, and defused the Green Geckos' sterling performance.

It was the third win this season by the Eagles against the Green Geckos.

See TERNS on Page 26

Team Macao, Westphal top Chagi Cup

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Participants to the 6th Annual Chagi Cup pose for the camera before the start of competition last Oct. 19 in Susupe Beach Park. Inset, expert champion Dan Westphal performs an olie jump.

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Team Macao and Dan Westphal topped their respective categories in the 6th Annual Chagi Cup held last Oct. 19 in the waters off the Susupe Beach Park.

Led by Japanese professional wakeboarder Hatakeyama Yohiyuki, Team Macao accumulated a total of 221 points to win the morning team competition.

Joining Hatakeyama in Team Macao were Inaoka Yoshiro, Yoshida Yukie, and Matsuo Nobuyuki.

Air-LLS came in second with 212 points. The team was made up of Jun Salalila, Jun Blas, Rodney Deleon Guerrero, Judykate Deleon Guerrero, and Onuma Kenji.

Sakura finished with 205 points to settle for third place. Japanese professional wakeboarder Fujimoto Makoto, Ando Kaoru, Takagi Yoshimi, and Mizutani Kenji make up the team.

Coming in fourth with 193 points was the Fry-n team of Westphal, Jay Santos, Taniguchi Tomohiro, and Mieko Kobayashi.

Otsuka Sadayuki, Akayane Sakyo, Sekiguchi Yoshihiro, Muraoka Yukio, and Fujisawa Tamaki of dethroned champion Boku-chan wound up in last pace with 175 points.

In the individual category held after lunch, Westphal led the winners by topping the Gold Star, or expert division, with 85 points. He was followed by Inaoka Yoshiro (63 points), Otsuka Sadayuki (35), and Jun Salalila (30).

Taniguchi Tomohiro, meanwhile, edged Jun Blas in the Silver Star, or pre-expert division, with 46 points. Blas came away with 44 points, while Akahane Sakyo (35), Fujisawa Tamaki

See TEAM on Page 26

Umangs sweep Turtles in U12 football

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School recorded twin wins against Oleai Elementary School in the Inaugural 2008 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League yesterday at the Hugging Umangs field.

The Lady Umangs shut out the Lady Turtles, 2-0, in the first game, while the boys team of Koblerville posted a similar 2-0 triumph over Oleai boys' squad to complete a sweep in their debut in the league.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Koblerville's Keoni Borja connects on a penalty kick against Oleai goalie Jonathan Jonah during their game in the U12 football league at the Umangs' field.

Nancy Oscar scored the Lady Umangs' first goal in the first half, while Angela Achime made another one in the second half.

Ferlisa Quitugia was the Lady Umangs' goalkeeper and she did a good job in the entire game, making several saves.

Coach Francis Mendiola had 14 players suiting up for the Lady Umangs. The list include Jurinah Navarro, Emily DeWitt, Merly-Ann Fernandez, Danielle Mafnas, Sonya Isaac, Kavia Bachandani, Loria Hocog, Judyan Rabauliman, Noely San

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